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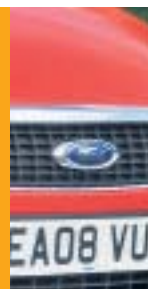
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FOOTBALL FAN STILL FACING EXTRADITION

Handing supporter to Portuguese 'abuse of power' court told

THE extradition of a England football fan convicted in Portugal of taking part in a riot would be "an abuse of power", a court has heard.

City of Westminster Magistrates Court was told the Portuguese authorities want to bring former firefighter Garry Mann, from Faversham, back to their country because he did not serve a prison term in England.

Melanie Cumberland, representing the Portuguese authorities, said the request had been made in the appropriate manner but the presiding judge reserved his decision and renewed Mr Mann's conditional bail.

■ BY NICK AMES

This means the case is still ongoing and a decision will be made in the future.

Mr Mann, 51, was given a two-year jail term for football-related violence in the Algarve resort of Albufeira after the Euro 2004 tournament.

His counsel, Anthony Metzger, said it was understood by both Mr Mann and British football intelligence officers that he would not have to serve the sentence in Portugal or England, as long as he agreed to leave Portugal for one year.

He told Senior District Judge Timothy Workman there had been a

retrospective decision to extradite him.

But he told the hearing it would be "an abuse of executive power" if his client were extradited to serve a jail term after what he called an "unfair" trial in Portugal.

Mr Mann claims he was arrested a mile away from the scene and three hours afterwards.

But Miss Cumberland said that according to Portuguese police he was held at the scene where he threw a bottle at officers and told other people to charge against them.

She said: "It's clear that he was arrested red-handed."

"The defendant has been convicted

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



TOP OF THE CROPS

A bumper harvest is brewing for beer lovers - thanks to the warm, wet summer.

The weather since May's brief heatwave has probably felt like a let-down after forecasters predicted we would be basking in an Indian summer.

But warm temperatures and lots of rain have at least had a positive effect on Kent's fields of barley and hops.

Faversham-based brewer Shepherd Neame is predicting a quality harvest which will be turned into a cracking pint of Kentish ale.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 4

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Food network leads us back to the land

■ BY NICK AMES

AN INNOVATIVE project exploring the benefits of local food to the community and economy of Faversham has been launched.

The Mapping Local Food Webs project, part of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, will help map local food networks.

These illustrate where food first comes from and how it arrives on the table, bringing together local consumers and producers so people are encouraged to shop and buy foods grown or reared nearby.

The initial pilot schemes in the nationwide project were tried out earlier this year in Hastings, Sheffield, Totnes and Leicester.

Faversham is one of 24 places identified for a second wave of projects and experts say it has excellent credentials because of Kent's excellent farmland, fishing grounds, orchards and hop gardens.

Livestock will also form part of the scheme, which has broad support among farmers.

The intention is to boost the profits of local companies and farms while cutting down on the need to transport perishable goods across large distances.

The project is supported by Big Lottery funding and aims to reconnect people with the land and local produce through community enterprise.

In addition, it has garnered the support of community groups and Swale Friends of the Earth.

Spokesman Jonathan Richardson said: "Swale FoE welcomes this opportunity. We are excited about getting involved in this."

The project reflects a recent trend among consumers for seeking out



GARDEN OF ENGLAND: Kent has long been renowned for the quality of its fruit

locally sourced food, both in terms of financial and ethical standards.

Karen Gardham, CPRE's South East co-ordinator for the project, said: "Getting the community involved and making the most of local knowledge are central to the project."

"This is a fantastic opportunity to develop and strengthen links in the local food network, including those between producers, suppliers and retailers."

As well as stores and restaurants, farmers' markets, home producers and allotment holders, along with distributors, are encouraged to take part.

• Our web service Food For Kent brings fresh local produce to your door. For more details, visit www.foodforkent.co.uk.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Helicopter summoned after superstore fall

A WOMAN was airlifted to hospital and treated for head injuries after falling over at the Tesco store in Faversham.

Kent Air Ambulance landed on the recreation ground so the casualty, who was in her 50s, could be taken for emergency help last Wednesday at 5pm.

A road ambulance was used to transport her to the playing field, where the helicopter had landed.

Supermarket staff called 999 after the woman fell and hit her head. The helicopter took her to Queen's Hospital, in Romford, Essex, which has a specialist neurological unit.

Barbecue beers lead to year driving ban

A MAN has been banned for a year for drink-driving after attending a barbecue.

Hayden Cock, 24, of River, near Dover, was stopped by police at Brenley Corner, near Faversham, as he drove on the Thanet Way in a Golf GTi. A test showed he was slightly over the limit, Sittingbourne magistrates heard.

Simon Holmes, defending, said: "He drank four or five small bottles of beer. He thought he might be approaching the limit but didn't think he was over it."

Cock was also fined £100 and ordered to pay £60 costs plus a £15 surcharge.

Man dies as Escort skids off the road

A MAN was killed when his car skidded off a road and collided with a gritting salt bin in the early hours of Monday.

The crash happened on a bend at White Hill, Selling, at about 3am. A grey Ford Escort came off the road, hit the bin and careered into a field.

The 38-year-old driver was pronounced dead at the scene. A 22-year-old passenger was taken to the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford with minor injuries.

Anyone with information should call Kent Police on 01622 798538.



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Alarm at Javelin threat to late capital service

■ BY NICK AMES

TOWN councillors have vowed to fight to keep the last train from Faversham to London as it now stands.

Proposals have been put forward by Southeastern Trains as a new timetable is finalised to take account of the running of the new high-speed 140mph Javelin trains.

However, the town council has pledged to do it all it can to keep its late night service to the capital, which has a last train departing at 11.42pm.

A meeting in the Guildhall was told the service was particularly popular with night workers and was also used by day-trippers visiting the coast and was of economic benefit to the Thanet resorts, including Ramsgate where it sets out from.

Proposals by the rail company include a new service leaving Faversham at 11.52pm and stopping at all stations before terminating at Gillingham.

Connections to London would then be possible if very late night services were running, but the journey time would be almost doubled.

Town councillors want the Gillingham train to run all the way into London.

The following proposal was agreed upon: "Faversham town council asks to have the have the last Faversham-London train kept at its approximate departure time by extending the proposed 23.52 Faversham-Gillingham service as far as London."



Picture PHIL HOUGHTON

ALL CHANGE: The 11.42pm Faversham to London service could fall victim to Southeastern's new timetable

Travellers from the town face a cutting of other services with the number of trains into Victoria at off-peak times halved and some services into Cannon Street cut.

Some services which were semi-fast will now have their journey times increased by up to ten minutes as they make additional stops along the route.

Faversham MP Hugh Robertson is aware of

Southeastern's proposals and the council's response, and they have also been submitted to the regeneration team at Swale council, as well as various railway bodies.

A Southeastern official said the views of all parties were being taken into consideration.

The new timetable will come into operation when the high-speed Javelin trains become fully operational in December.

Patient awaiting surgery leaves to attend court date

■ BY IAN READ

A MAN accused of driving while banned suddenly remembered he was due in court while he was awaiting a major operation.

Paul Devine, 32, of Prestfield Road, Gillingham, disconnected his drip at Medway Maritime Hospital and headed off the eight miles to Sittingbourne Magistrates Court where he was due to answer driving while disqualified charges – and nobody knew he had gone.

He turned up at the court on Friday with a cannula still attached to his left arm to admit driving a seven-a-half-tonne truck in Iwade without a licence and using a mobile phone while driving.

Ward staff at the hospital only realised he was gone when probation officers contacted them about his health problems.

Banned

Geoff Playford, defending, said: "They thought he'd gone out for a cigarette. He told me he'd discharged himself to come to court."

"He didn't say anything about an operation. He is due on the operating table in two hours time."

Devine managed to walk from the hospital to Gillingham train station with the medical catheter hanging from his arm.

The court was told Devine drove the truck as a favour for a friend and didn't realise he was banned from driving and so had no insurance.

He used the mobile phone to make a panic call to his mate when he realised police were following him.

The case was adjourned for three weeks so Devine can recover from the effects of his operation.

Extradition of Euro 2004 fan opposed

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

in his presence by a competent court."

Miss Cumberland also said the Portuguese minister of justice prepared a note in June 2004 that said a request for extradition could be made if Mr Mann did not serve the sentence in England.

His solicitor, Look-Chi Wang, said: "It would be a travesty if after a period of five years Garry is returned to Portugal to serve a sentence for a crime he did not commit."

"The object of the European arrest warrant is to facilitate the quick return of fugitives, but this has to be balanced with issues of human rights."

Faversham and Mid Kent MP Hugh Robertson said: "Having looked at Garry Mann's case in some detail over the years, I have real doubts about whether the correct and just verdict was reached."

"In addition, the case poses some real questions about the operation of the European arrest warrant."

After the hearing, Mr Mann said: "All I can say is we've put our case, it's down the justice of this country."

Core blimey! Apple celebration with plant hunter Tom

THE world-renowned national fruit collection at Brogdale near Faversham will be hosting an apple festival on the weekend of October 17 and 18.

The festival celebrates more than 1,000 years of apple-growing history and culture in the British Isles.

There are more than 2,000 varieties of apple in the collection and there will be some 200 varieties on display and for tasting.

Bramley's Seedling, Ribston Pippin and Cox's Orange Pippin are among the varieties to be featured.

Other events include fruit identification, guided orchard tours on foot or by tractor and trailer, live music and cooking demonstrations with Kent chef Scott Anderson.

Plant hunter Tom Hart Dyke, whose World Garden in the grounds of Lullingstone Castle was conceived when he was held captive by guerillas

in the jungles of Central America, will also be giving a talk about his experiences.

In 2000, Mr Hart Dyke was kidnapped by suspected members of the rebel FARC group in the Darien Gap, which is between Panama and Colombia, while looking for rare orchids – a plant for which he has a particular passion.

He and his travel companion were held captive for nine months and threatened with death.

He kept himself going by creating a design for a garden containing plants collected on his trips, laid out in the shape of a world map

according to their continent of origin.

A flower-arranging workshop, craft and local produce market, falconry display, working dog display, classic cars, archery, bouncy castle, face painters and locally produced beer and cider will also be on offer at the Faversham event.



TALK: Tom Hart Dyke

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Murder charge denied in alleyway stabbing case

A TEENAGER accused of stabbing a man to death in a Canterbury alley has denied murder.

Ikikibiya Manuel has been charged with killing 26-year-old Luke Brocklebank, who was found in a grassy alley on the estate behind Sturry Road on April 16.

Mr Brocklebank was airlifted to the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel, east London, but died soon afterwards.

Manuel, 19, of Camberwell, south London, has been remanded in custody until his trial on November 16.

Flats to be built when old house is demolished

A CONTROVERSIAL block of flats has been granted permission in Herne Bay to the disgust of neighbours.

The flats, which will contain eight separate apartments, will replace a house due to be demolished on Sweeneybridge Road.

Planning officers and members held a site meeting late last month and decided the application, which had been revised after its deferment at a previous meeting, could go ahead subject to conditions.

Firefighters called when kitchen goes up in smoke

A COOKING fire left a kitchen badly damaged in student halls of residence in Canterbury last week.

Firefighters were alerted to the blaze at a new University of Kent accommodation block in Tyler Hill at about 8pm on Tuesday, July 28.

The fire, started by what firemen describe as "a cooking mishap" gutted the communal kitchen in the block, although crews managed to keep the flames from spreading.

Our MP's expenses are now online for all to see

CANTERBURY MP Julian Brazier's expenses are now online for the public to peruse.

The figures available are for June and do not cover his staff or travel expenses. Accommodation and office allowances are included.

See www.conservatives.com and search Julian Brazier to see the list.

Brewery bosses to raise glass to bumper harvest

■ BY NICK AMES

BREWERS say this will be a good year for beer after a bumper harvest of hops and barley.

Bosses at Shepherd Neame in Faversham are confident of a good return thanks to extremely favourable weather conditions.

The crop will be used in the brewer's full range of beers, with the first available to be consumed at the beginning of the autumn.

Senior brewer Stewart Main said: "The weather has been perfect; from the rain in spring which promoted good growth early on, to the hot dry months we've enjoyed so far this summer. This spells good news for us, as a quality crop means a quality beer."

Kent is an ideal place for hop growing with its warm climate and fertile, chalk-drained clay soil.

Winter barley is planted in October and combine harvesters have already started bringing in this year's barley harvest, with the hop harvest due in late August and early September.

Brewing experts are responsible for checking the quality of the crops and inspect them throughout the year.

"We visit the farmers' fields quite early on to get an idea of how they are doing," said Mr Main.

"Just before the barley harvest we have a field-walk with the farmer and maltster, looking at the barley and how well it has grown."

The barley is harvested from 2,500 acres of farmland, which would cover 954 football pitches, then malted in large kilns.

Shepherd Neame uses 6,000 tonnes of malted barley every year to brew its beers.



FIELDS OF GOLD: Stewart Main, (left) checking the barley, says the weather has been perfect for this year's crop

Hop-walks are also carried out before the harvest by the brewers.

"We check the bines for the quality of the hop cones, which are normally out by mid August. These are the female parts of the plant which are used to add bitterness and flavour to the beer," said Mr Main.

After harvest, the picked hop flowers are sent to oast houses where they are dried and cooled in readiness for brewing.

The dried hops are carefully inspected by Shepherd Neame expert brewers, who check

for any signs of damage, as well as assessing the aroma by rubbing the hops.

"The more bitter the hop, the less we will have to use when brewing," added Mr Main.

"Once we know this, we can adjust our brewing process to ensure the final product tastes as it should."

When the hops have passed the quality tests, they are compressed into pellet form, which keep for longer and are easier to store, with the first ales of the new harvest brewed as soon as September.



TASTE TEST: Claire Houlihan serves guests at wine tasting day

Pub celebrates French vintage

THE Three Mariners pub at Oare has celebrated its Wine Pub of the Year Award in French style by hosting a special Bastille Day wine tasting.

The celebratory tutored wine and cheese tasting was attended by regulars who were treated to a masterclass in wine appreciation by Roshna Ahmad, from Todd's The Wine Company.

The award is open to all the pubs owned by brewers Shepherd Neame.

Invited guests enjoyed three fine whites, a rosé and two reds that were all matched with distinctive French cheeses.

The evening was rounded off with a dessert wine to finish.

Licensee Claire Houlihan said: "We were so pleased to win Wine Pub of the Year Award and wanted to celebrate our achievement with our regulars."

"It was a delightful evening, everyone had a fabulous time and I think we all learnt something about French wines."

George Barnes, Shepherd Neame tenanted trade director, who also attended said: "The Three Mariners has lots of character and the evening was a great success, demonstrating why the pub deserved the title of Wine Pub of the Year."

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ROARING SUCCESS: The Dragons turned down Josephine Buchan (inset), but she was pleased with the publicity

Sweet sound of success despite winning nothing

SHE entered the Dragons' Den with hopes of persuading TV's toughest judges to invest £250,000. She came out with nothing.

But theatre producer and former Pebble Mill presenter Josephine Buchan said this week that it could not have gone any better.

Millions tuned into last Wednesday night's show to watch Mrs Buchan, who lives in Canterbury, bid for the cash for a 25 per cent stake in a musical based around the life of Dusty Springfield.

The show would cost £1m to set up, half of which the former famous face already had.

After her sales patter, the five notoriously tough 'Dragons', consisting of Duncan Bannatyne, James Caan, Peter Jones, Deborah Meaden and Theo Paphitis, were treated to a performance of You Don't Have to Say You Love Me, by Lucy Williamson.

But the sweet music ended there as the Dragons went on the attack – quizzing her over her financial figures.

In one tense exchange Mr Bannatyne described one sum as a "theatrical way of calculating a return".

Eventually, one by one the Dragons declared themselves out, until there was no chance of investment.

But she insists things went exactly as she

■ BY RACHEL MCATHY

wanted: "It could not have gone better. I got 17 and a half minutes on network television, the comeback has been magnificent.

"Of course I could have got the money, but I already had a deal going with America.

"I was actually in the room with the Dragons for a hour-and-a-half, but they edit it down. That is just the way the programme works."

She said none of the comments fazed her, except when her mathematical abilities were questioned.

"The only thing that was disappointing was when Peter Jones said he did not want to work with someone who did not know their numbers," she said.

"But I do know my numbers, it is just like remembering things for an exam, you can be sure the one thing you don't remember will come up.

"The deal was too risky for them, they are business people so theatre financing was a terrific long shot.

"I never in a million years thought I would get the money.

"I have watched the show before and just thought it would be a wonderful profile for my musical.

"The end product was very classy."

Landowners sought so habitat can be bought

VITAL habitats at the Seasalter Levels are languishing as waste ground because the RSPB cannot track down the landowners.

Two years ago a number of environmental charities and councils pooled resources to buy 100 hectares of the levels to use as a nature reserve, and they want to expand.

But who owns the rest of the land remains a mystery. The area was divided up into small plots and sold off in the 1970s.

If you think you can help contact Alan Johnson, the RSPB's North Kent reserves manager, on 01634 222480 or email alan.johnson@rspb.org.uk.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

High numbers of drinkers

ANGER at drunken behaviour is higher than average in the Canterbury district, according to a national survey.

The Place Survey, which gathers views from all council districts, reveals five per cent more people in Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay think drunk and rowdy behaviour is a problem than the national average. It also indicates 56 per cent of people feel the offenders belong to their immediate neighbourhood, compared to 62 per cent nationally.

According to the poll, released last week, people treating not each other with respect and consideration is a problem, and more people think parents do not take enough responsibility. But more people think social integration in the district is good, with 82 per cent agreeing people from different backgrounds get on well.

Despite the perceived drunken rowdiness, only an average number of respondents think anti-social behaviour in general is a problem.

Speedboat towed to shore

FOUR sailors were left stranded when their speedboat sank at sea near Herne Bay.

The Whitstable lifeboat was called out just before 4.30pm on Tuesday, July 28, as the speedboat was going under, and it found the four clinging on to flotsam from the boat.

All four casualties were taken ashore to Herne Bay Harbour and the care of Herne Bay Lifeguards and paramedics.

The lifeboat crew then towed the speedboat, still upside-down and semi-submerged, to the launching ramp at Neptune Jetty.

Theatre tickets are free

FREE theatre tickets are available for a number of shows in Canterbury thanks to an Arts Council initiative.

Anyone under 26 can take advantage of the offer for several of the productions in the Marlowe brochure.

These include A Midsummer Night's Dream at St Augustine's Abbey from August 12 to 16, and Moths Ate My Doctor Who Scarf at the Gulbenkian on September 14, with many more free performances of other shows also available.

To claim your free ticket call the Marlowe Box Office on 01227 787787 or come on the night. Proof of age will be required.

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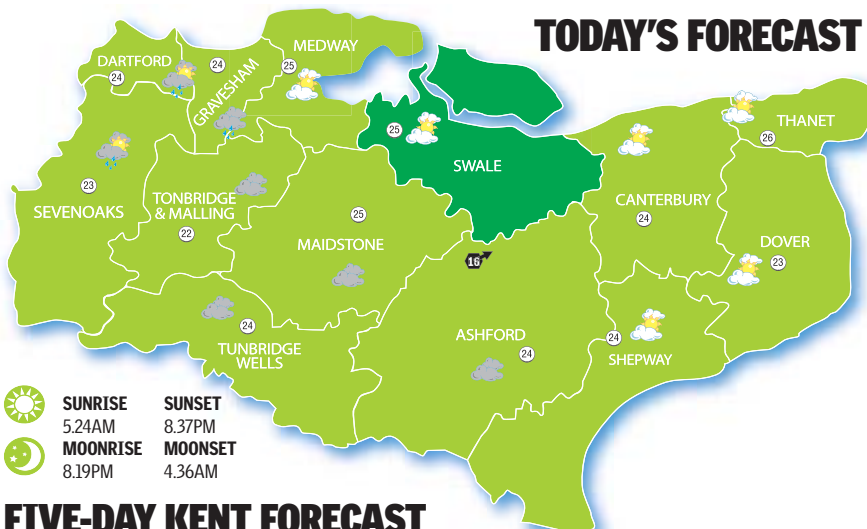
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WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	3:07pm	5.9m
	Sunday	3:37pm	5.9m
Dover	Saturday	1:23pm	6.5m
	Sunday	1:52pm	6.5m
Dungeness	Saturday	1:20pm	7.5m
	Sunday	1:49pm	7.6m
Ramsgate	Saturday	1:53pm	5.0m
	Sunday	2:22pm	5.0m
Sheerness	Saturday	2:57pm	5.7m
	Sunday	3:27pm	5.7m
Whitstable	Saturday	2:54pm	5.2m
	Sunday	3:21pm	5.2m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	20°C	Madrid	30°C
Athens	35°C	New York	24°C
Barcelona	25°C	Paris	21°C
Beijing	31°C	Rome	27°C
Bombay	29°C	Sydney	18°C
Cape Town	19°C	Tenerife	26°C
Cardiff	17°C	Tokyo	28°C
Gibraltar	27°C	Vancouver	25°C
Hong Kong	34°C	Warsaw	23°C
Las Palmas	27°C	Wellington	15°C



Exhibition opens the Gateway to new skills

FOLLOWING the recent celebration of Louis Blériot's first flight across the Channel, a photographic exhibition on other commemorative projects surrounding the event will be displayed on Sheppey.

The exhibition will be held at The Gateway Centre in Queenborough and will include sound and drama projects, and photographic workshops.

Some of the arts and cultural activities staged recently have been aimed at training people in photographic skills in order to provide an exhibition of their work.

The exhibition, which will take place on Sunday from 10.30am until 1.30pm, will cover photographs of the participants and the drama workshops carried out with the National Youth Theatre, alongside archive material and film.

Aviator Louis Blériot flew across the English Channel and landed close to Dover on July 25, 1909. The end of last month saw a series of anniversary events – including a crossing in a rebuilt version of his original aircraft which arrived in the UK at the second attempt with Swedish pilot Mikael Carlson at the controls.

His first attempt had been postponed because of high winds in France.

Other historic aircraft, including a Lancaster bomber, also flew across east Kent during the event.

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	22°C	23°C	23°C	22°C	21°C	Gravesend	23°C	25°C	24°C	23°C	21°C
Canterbury	22°C	25°C	24°C	23°C	21°C	Maidstone	22°C	24°C	23°C	23°C	21°C
Chatham	22°C	24°C	22°C	21°C	20°C	Ramsgate	22°C	25°C	24°C	23°C	21°C
Dartford	23°C	25°C	24°C	23°C	21°C	Rochester	22°C	24°C	22°C	21°C	20°C
Dover	21°C	22°C	22°C	21°C	19°C	Sevenoaks	20°C	22°C	22°C	21°C	20°C
Faversham	22°C	24°C	22°C	21°C	20°C	Sittingbourne	22°C	24°C	22°C	21°C	20°C
Folkestone	21°C	22°C	22°C	21°C	19°C	Tonbridge	22°C	23°C	23°C	23°C	21°C
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QUESTION & ANSWER

HELEN EVANS



Q Can you tell us a little about yourself?

A I'm 21 and was born in Maidstone. I went to Maidstone Girls' Grammar and am now studying English at Loughborough University.

Q You're back home for the summer break. What made you decide to volunteer with Macmillan Cancer Support?

A I've done a lot of fundraising in the past so have always been interested in the charity sector. With more than two million people living with cancer, it's something which affects everyone's lives so I am proud to help Macmillan, which provides invaluable support to so many.

Macmillan's internship offers experience in areas such as PR, marketing and events management, which is invaluable in a competitive job market.

Q Did the recession influence your decision to volunteer rather than look for paid work?

A Definitely. Before the recession I had some fanciful idea that I would easily find a paid placement over the summer; gaining work experience while paying off debts.

It soon became clear it wasn't going to be quite so straightforward and this forced me to question what my priorities were. I chose the unpaid internship, but in a role I feel is giving me REAL work experience, I like to consider it as a long-term investment.

Q What role have you taken on with Macmillan?

A It's my job to project-manage Macmillan's flagship event the World's Biggest Coffee Morning within Kent. I have to publicise the event throughout the county, encourage as much of Kent to get involved as I can and ensure Macmillan raises as much money as possible, even if that involves dressing up as a giant coffee mug.

So far the role has taken me to some interesting places including a barbecue at Dungeness power station. One of my main objectives is to inform people just how much Macmillan does on a local level and the service it provide other than the famous nurses.

For example, last year Macmillan provided more than £230,000 of grants in Kent alone, to help with things such as travel expenses to and from hospital, or more unusual items such as a fishing rod and wedding dress.

Q Why is the World's Biggest Coffee Morning so important?

A It is now in its 19th year and is Macmillan's biggest national event, raising £7.5 million in 2008. This year the theme for coffee mornings is 'feel good' and, despite the economic climate, we are aiming even higher and hope to raise £230,000 in Kent. Macmillan is about 80 per cent of the way to reaching the £1 million it needs to raise for the new Macmillan Cancer Unit at Medway Maritime Hospital.

Q How can people and companies get involved?

A It couldn't be simpler – which is the beauty of the coffee mornings. Just call the hotline on 0845 602 1246 or register online at www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee and we'll send an information pack with everything you could possibly want to host your own event.

All you need to supply is a cup, a kettle, preferably some cake and it also helps if you have one or two friends, but imaginary ones will do as long as they make a donation.

Q What do you hope to do after completing your studies?

A Career-wise, I'm not sure yet. Events management has always been something I've been interested in, but I also really enjoy writing, so perhaps journalism. I can put off decision making for a bit longer as I intend to go travelling once I finish my degree.

Q Tell us something not many people know about you?

A I'm scared of pigeons. It's a long story that involves Trafalgar Square.

Q Anything you'd like to add?

A My aim is to make the World's Biggest Coffee Morning a key date in everyone's diary and I'd love Kent to be the leading light in supporting the event.

Q & A

The fundraising intern for Macmillan Cancer Support in Kent spoke to **Jon Coates** about working as a volunteer and her mission to make the World's Biggest Coffee Morning a key date in all our readers' diaries.

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EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Michelle loses brave 18-year cancer battle

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

A MOTHER-of-one has died after an 18-year battle with skin cancer.

Michelle Borrett, 38, from Walderslade, died on Monday last week. She leaves behind husband Gary and eight-year-old daughter Grace.

A touching statement released by the family reads: "Michelle was wife and best friend to Gary, mother to Grace, daughter of Bob and Margaret, sister of Nicky and James, sister-in-law to Paul and Nic, auntie to Arne and Jake, daughter-in-law to Barbara and Roy, and friend, adviser and confidant to all who knew and loved her.

"She was one of the kindest, most selfless, helpful and just plain lovely people you could ever wish to know."

Michelle was first diagnosed with malignant melanoma at the age of 21 after doctors told her a small mole on her lower back was cancerous. Surgeons removed the mole and regular check-ups showed no sign of the cancer having spread. Michelle married bank colleague Gary in 1999 and gave birth to daughter Grace two years later.

Just before Grace's fourth birthday in 2005, the young mum found a lump in her groin and investigations revealed the cancer had returned. Once again, Michelle underwent painful surgery to have the lump removed. Three years later a routine scan identified abnormal cells in her lung.

Surgeons removed the cells but the cancer spread once again, reaching her brain in June this year. Michelle's family said it was her wish to raise awareness of the dangers of the sun and malignant melanoma, and handed this paper a moving article written by



FAMILY TRIBUTE: "Just plain lovely" – Michelle Borrett, with daughter Grace and husband Gary

Michelle in 2006. In it she revealed how devastated she was to hear the cancer had returned.

She wrote: "I was so shocked. I'd come to the hospital on my own. I went round to mum's. 'What am I going to do about Grace,' I wept. 'I just want to be here for my little girl!'

"Mum held me tightly and burst into tears too. We just clung to each other."

She goes on to urge others to protect themselves against the sun.

Michelle wrote: "I just want people to learn from reading my story that the sun is a dangerous thing. When the sun comes out, people in this country go mad for it and sit out for as

long as they can. But people need to cover up and wear sunscreen – or else it could happen to them. Thirteen years after I had my mole removed, it came back to haunt me. I dismissed it as 'just a mole.' Don't anyone else do the same. It's a matter of life or death."

• Last week we reported how two friends were planning to do the Leeds Castle 10k run for Cancer Research UK to support Michelle after her cancer returned for the third time.

Adam Dudley and Nigel Scott now intend to complete the run in the picturesque grounds of the castle, near Maidstone, on Sunday, September 27, as a tribute to her.

Visit www.run10ksponsor.me.org/adamdudley to sponsor them.

Plastic cups to combat threat of glass and bottle attacks

A CRACKDOWN on glass and bottle attacks could lead to more pubs serving drinks in plastic cups.

Between May 1 and July 9, there were 50 such attacks in Kent, accounting for 41 per cent of offences that fall under the violent knife crime category.

Kent Police are in discussions with the industry to see how it can reduce the number of glass attacks, with plastic cups and bottles an obvious solution.

Chief Inspector Lee Russell said: "We would encourage the use of plastic cups within pubs and clubs, even though we accept that the vast majority of people go out to enjoy themselves and not to smash a glass or bottle over someone's head.

"There have been conversations about this for a long time and it usually comes down to cost."

He said that while plastic cups may prove unpopular at first, he was confident people would soon get used to them: "It's a cultural issue that many people prefer drinks in glasses."

"But many will already be familiar with plastic containers that are used at music events, for example."

The issue of glass attacks was brought up during a presentation by Ch Insp Russell at a Kent Police Authority meeting.

But Phil Thorley, operations director of the Broadstairs-based Thorley Taverns chain, said that while plastic containers were suitable on occasions such as outdoor events, they were not necessary inside the majority of premises.

He said: "Pubs are generally very safe places to enjoy alcohol and if they are well-managed and well-run, there is little need to replace glasses with plastic containers."



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Award Winning Company

Maidstone makes it in to Grand National mix

■ BY RACHEL MCATHY

HE WAS once dubbed “the worst racehorse in history” – now a steed named after our county town has made a little history after becoming the youngest to qualify for the world’s most famous steeplechase, the Grand National.

And given his name, bookies are bracing themselves for a rush of wagers on the horse if he eventually lines up in the showcase steeplechase at Aintree.

Four-year-old Maidstone Mixture clinched the chance to line-up before a global TV audience of millions with a win in a recent qualifying event. In doing so he achieved the blend of height, weight, ratings and race wins required.

However, don’t start planning that flutter just yet. His well-known owners don’t intend to enter him for the race for another few years.

Maidstone Mixture is owned by millionaires Fergus and Judith Wilson – the former teachers who shot to fame after leaving the classroom to dabble in property. Their wheeling and dealing has made them one of the nation’s wealthiest couples, with a portfolio of hundreds of homes across the county.

They’ve already entered runners into the Grand National in the past, but this one is particularly special to them.

After a poor performance in the Derby last year the stallion was referred to as the “worst racehorse in history” by racing pundits.

Mr Wilson, who owns around 30 horses in total, told our sister paper Kent on Saturday: “Most horses that race in the Grand National



RIISING STAR: Maidstone Mixture is the youngest ever qualifier to achieve a place in the Grand National

are about nine years old, so it is quite an achievement to already meet the minimum qualification.

“When he ran in the Derby, someone said he was the worst race horse ever, but I think he meant in the race that day.

“But clearly, he was not the worst, as he has won a couple of races.”

He said the horse’s popularity has shot up in the last few months.

“The people of Maidstone all have a stake in his name,” he said.

Earlier this year, one of Mr Wilson’s horses, Cerium, was given odds of 500-1 before running in the Grand National. He eventually finished fifth. Winning the big race has long been a dream of Mr Wilson’s, but he remains grounded about Maidstone Mixture’s chances.

“I have to be realistic, he is not the best horse in the world, but far from the worst,” he said.



HAPPY: The day before his death Henry Surtees had been celebrating a podium finish in his race

Friends and family say goodbye to tragic racer Henry

THE tragically short and thrilling life of Formula Two racer Henry Surtees was celebrated in a moving church service on Thursday.

Family and friends recalled the huge smile, hugs and affection of the 18-year-old from Edenbridge who died in a freak accident while competing in the Formula Two Championship at Brands Hatch two weeks ago. He was struck on the head by a wheel from another car while travelling at 120mph.

Among more than 400 mourners were Formula One legend Nigel Mansell, Williams team co-founder Patrick Head and Lewis Hamilton’s father Anthony.

Mr Surtees had been tipped as one of motorsport’s brightest talents. He was the son of John Surtees – the only man to have won world titles on both two and four wheels.

The service took place at Worth Abbey near Crawley – close to the school where he so recently completed his A-Levels.

The congregation listened in tearful silence as Henry’s sisters Edwina and Leonora did readings and other family members recalled his achievements as a motoring star of the future.

The end of the service saw his remains leave for a private burial with his team helmet placed on top of the coffin.



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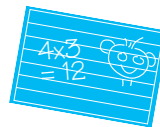


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BREAK TIME



SHIRT ORDER: Youngsters show off their designs

Safety first for designer pupils

HUNDREDS of children across Kent have produced a splash of colour for a T-shirt design competition to promote cycling safety.

They used vivid yellow, bright blue and red shirts emblazoned with the 'Be safe, be seen' message for the safer cycling campaign.

Shirts with the winning designs will be worn by road safety staff from Kent County Council and Kent Police officers taking part in the Circuit of Kent charity challenge ride in September.

Cabinet member for highways Cllr Nick Chard, presenting the winning pupils with their shirts, said: "This is such a great idea. We are very concerned about children's safety and I very much welcome that schools have taken it on board."

"The designs are excellent. Most of the adults I have spoken to have said that we couldn't have got a professional to do a better job."

Basking in the glow of MP's praise

PARENTS, guests and staff celebrated the achievements of pupils during an annual school prizegiving ceremony.

The event at the Abbey School in Faversham saw a total of 83 prize winners selected from key stages three, four and five from a wide range of academic, vocational and pastoral areas by heads of department, based on attainment.

A special presentation was made to Christina Austin, the winner of the headteacher's shield for the student who made an extra impact upon the life of the school.

Events in the hall were concluded with guest Hugh Robertson MP's speech praising the enthusiasm and positive impact of young people in the local community.

Mr Robertson cited the example of athlete Dame Kelly Holmes as an inspiration to young people because they all have one special talent.

Assistant headteacher Phil Stucken,

■ BY NICK AMES

who organised the event, said: "Putting together an end of year whole school awards ceremony is a huge challenge due to the sheer diversity of what we do here at the Abbey School."

"But it rewards achievement and is a chance for parents, students and staff to celebrate excellence, and recognise the efforts and successes of our students."

Guests rounded off the ceremony with light refreshments supplied by the school's catering department and musical entertainment from the Abbey School jazz band and steel drum band.

Headteacher Catrin Woodend said: "This is the result of an exceptional year and we are delighted our students have the opportunity to be rewarded for all their hard work."

"This has been an amazing day of celebration which would not have been possible without the hard work of all the students and staff."



PRIZE GUY: Faversham and Mid Kent MP Hugh Robertson presented prizes to winning pupils at the Abbey School's end-of-year ceremony

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Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in Swale...

Have we made a habit of accepting the raw deal?

A MAJOR change in drug policing has been suggested by a leading think-tank and it's one which proponents of "zero tolerance" might find distinctly unpalatable.

The report, by the UK Drug Policy Commission, suggests that busting dealers and seizing their stash may not be the best way to deal with the growing issue of drugs.

Cocaine use has risen massively over the last few years and politicians are beginning to admit the current approach to drug enforcement is not working.

So instead of focusing simply on enforcing the law to the letter, the think-tank suggests a system which aims to minimise harm caused by the illegal drugs trade.

This throws up some interesting and highly controversial scenarios.

Arresting dealers has got to be the right

thing to do, hasn't it? Not necessarily according to the report, at least in terms of minimising harm to the community.

It argues that removing a well-established drug lord from an area could spark a violent turf war as rivals seek to fill the vacuum.

This leads to more deaths and violence on the street, which would have a more serious effect on the people living in the area than if the illegal trade had been allowed to continue unmolested.

And the final victor of the violent turf war may be even more ruthless and brutal than his predecessor.

So what would the police do instead?

The think-tank suggests moving the problem away from residential areas where children play, and on to industrial estates and less frequented parts of a town, minimising the damage to communities.

That's as may be, but I can't see business owners being that thrilled with the prospect of

drug deals happening on their doorsteps.

But maybe this is the lesser of two evils?

And here I think is the point. The very fact that this report has been written suggests that it has come down to a choice between two pretty unsavoury options.

Either continue business as usual, and watch drug use rise and risk increased street violence and its consequences, or attempt to manipulate the situation which involves some criminals literally getting away with it.

It's hardly an encouraging position is it? Yet it's good that these issues are at least being talked about and it's clear the problem of illegal drugs has no simple solution.

To read the UK Drug Policy Commission report see www.ukdpc.org.uk

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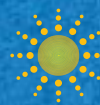


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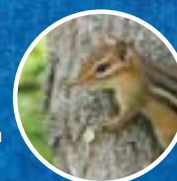


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TALK TIME

KIM COOK

The genealogist talks about her family history firm, Orchard Research, and why people are so fascinated with finding out about their family's past



How did you first get into studying family history?

I've always been interested in people, their likes and dislikes, background and foibles, but my own family were an unsentimental lot, who never spoke about the past.

I was about 12 when, in London, I noticed a parade of shops with my mother's family name above the doors, and was amazed when she said the shops had belonged to my grandfather. No-one had ever mentioned this before. Intrigued, I set out to find out more about him, asking everyone who had known him lots of questions, it just took off from there.

Why do you think people have the desire to dig into their family's past?

It probably reflects the changes in society. Social mobility, leading to the break-up of the extended family, and the insecurities of war and recession, have all led to people feeling increasingly adrift. Knowing where your ancestors came from gives a sense of security and belonging.

What information do you need to have to find out about your family history?

What is needed is access to primary (ie original) sources relating to the area your ancestors came from. If you have Kentish ancestors, there's a wealth of information in the County Record Offices at Maidstone and Strood and in libraries. However, where the original records have not been filmed, you still need to travel to the area you're researching, or get a professional to do the research for you. Orchard also offers this professional service.

YOUR LETTERS



Mobile cameras help save lives

The Long Bridge in Faversham is a true blot on the landscape as you reported in last week's paper.

But it's not a new problem. It has been like this for years and years, and such things as artwork by schoolchildren to brighten it up last a matter of days.

Then the obscenities are back. And it's not just that which is unpleasant.

The bridge itself is a very threatening environment for people on their own.

To cross it late in the evening or even during school holidays, pedestrians are forced to run the gauntlet of rude and aggressive groups of young people.

It is often said they have nowhere to go, but there's a large park on one side of the bridge a few yards away.

So graffiti is a problem – but so is anti-social behaviour.

Maria Parkes,
from Faversham, by email.



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Beneath most stories on the www.yoursware.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yoursware.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Faversham, Sittingbourne, Sheerness and all the villages in Swale.

We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience. In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yoursware before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

On www.yoursware.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly-acclaimed e-editions.

Let's stop dwelling on the past now

I really think we have heard enough about the ongoing saga of

the chief executive of Swale Council and his replacement.

I know it has cost a lot of money but now the authority is in a situation where it can build for the future. So that's enough harping on about the past.

Council boss sacking cost £230k legal bill



Let's give as much support as we can to the new man, Abdool Kara, and hope he does a good job. We have all heard about the shortcomings of the past – let's now look forward positively to the future.

Ryan Hamilton,
from Teynham, by email.

Does council actually do any work?

Do you think the council are getting us (the public) to do their work for them?

They have huge hoardings (paid for by us) asking us to email them if we see someone dropping litter from their cars, which means we would have to take a photo of the culprit actually in the act, also their number plate. Also would we phone them if we come across a pot-hole.

I've heard of kids being paid to snoop on neighbours and people going through our wheelie bins to make sure we are recycling properly and the best one – pensioners clearing scrub land (unpaid) as it's good exercise for them.

What will the council come up with next so they can remain behind their desks in their nice plush offices?

Mrs J Piddock,
by letter.



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Invitation to enjoy coffee and cake

It's not often you are given the opportunity to eat cake and feel not the slightest bit guilty, but this is where Macmillan Cancer Support comes in. Take part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning on



Friday, September 25, and you can eat cake to your heart's content and still feel good.

Last year, Kent raised more than £180,000 through coffee mornings across the county. This helped fund such things as the 120 countywide team of Macmillan professionals and contributed towards the £232,367 of financial grants.

To allow Macmillan to continue providing support to people affected by cancer, we are urging Kent to make their coffee count and get behind World's Biggest Coffee Morning. The event couldn't be easier to take part in. All you need are a few friends, a kettle and some tasty treats. And although the fundraiser takes place next month, don't let that hold you back. You can hold your coffee morning any day, anywhere, at any time. It doesn't matter if you raise £10 or £200, because every penny makes a difference.

With more than 7,000 people being diagnosed with cancer each

year across the county, there has never been a more important time to get involved, particularly as Macmillan is fundraising for the new cancer care unit for Swale and Medway.

So join the rest of the UK for the World's Biggest Coffee Morning. To hold your own coffee morning, call 0845 602 1246, quoting ref RNA 10, or visit www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee and register online.

Helen Evans, Kent fundraiser,
Macmillan Cancer Support, by email



Such slow progress

Regarding last week's blog, I have just one thing to say: technology doesn't speed up transactions, it slows them down.

Paying by card in a queue in either a supermarket or at a station is far slower than just handing over cash, even when everything runs smoothly. At least half of the time the number is entered wrongly, or the card not read properly, or some other nonsense.

To pay for a ticket for £19 means if you hand over a £20 note the whole thing is over in a matter of seconds.

To use a card, wait for tickets and then a receipt takes ten times as

long. It's the same when buying the weekly shopping. It takes ages to stand behind people who clearly don't really know how to use cards. Bring back old-fashioned cash.

Clive Griggs, by email

Play safe in summer

With the school holidays here, I would like to appeal to parents to ensure their children stay safe by staying out of quarries this summer.

Already this year, two teenage boys have been killed in quarries.

A 15-year-old drowned at a quarry in Derbyshire, while an 18-year-old fell to his death in Warwickshire.

Both quarries were old workings protected by fences.

The danger is real and the Mineral Products Association is raising awareness to try to prevent any more tragic deaths. The message is simple: Stay Safe ... Stay Out. It is not only illegal to trespass in quarries, but it also extremely dangerous.

Our members take their responsibilities seriously. Many liaise with local schools, are in regular contact with emergency services and maintain their fencing. Some sites even use CCTV and security guards.

But we need the help of parents, teachers and youth workers.

Please keep your children safe by ensuring they are aware of the dangers posed by trespassing in your local quarry.

Simon van der Byl, executive director,
Mineral Products Association, by email

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Starry-eyed Julie returns

Legendary folk icon is still going aged 70

JULIE FELIX

Saturday, August 8
Granville Theatre, Ramsgate



CALIFORNIAN singer-songwriter Julie Felix became a folk icon when she arrived in Britain in the 60s.

She became the first solo folk artist to be signed by a major British record label and was truly taken to the heart of her adopted nation.

At the age of 71, she has enjoyed a career that spans five decades and still commands a loyal following.

This weekend she visits Kent to showcase the songs that have made her such a successful artist.

Felix arrived in Britain in 1964, having hitchhiked through Europe with her guitar. Before long she had made history by signing with influential record label Decca and later became the first British-based folk singer to perform at the Royal Albert Hall.

Colour

As resident singer on The Frost Report, she impressed television bosses enough to land her own BBC series, the Corporation's first to be broadcast in colour.

Her admiration for the work of Bob Dylan became apparent very early in her career, with a cover of When The Ship Comes In featuring on her second album.

She followed this with another record, Julie Felix Sings Bob Dylan & Woody Guthrie, and would release another album of his tracks in 2002, called Starry Eyed and Laughing.

During the 70s she had more success while signed to legendary producer Mickie Most's RAK label. But the 80s would see Felix taking a break from the music industry for a few years and returning to her native California.

Several years later, she returned to music after witnessing the injustices suffered by the indigenous people of Central America and felt inspired to write and sing again.

Although she spends most of her time in Britain, she also has a home in California.

But touring has always been a big



THE SHIP COMES IN: Popular singer Julie Felix will be performing in Ramsgate

part of her life and she still enjoys the magic that comes with performing live on stage in front of appreciative audiences.

In June last year she celebrated her 70th birthday with a sell-out gig at

Gateshead's Sage Theatre and her subsequent tour of Ireland also sold out every venue.

The performance starts at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10/£9. To book call the box office on 01843 591750.

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FAMILY DAYS

Various dates
Farming World,
Boughton

FROM creepy crawlies to mystifying magicians, there is plenty going on at Farming World this week.

The summer entertainment continues with lots more events to intrigue youngsters, such as today's Creepy Crawly Day. Meet spiders and reptiles and learn about how they live in the natural world.

A bouncy castle and inflatable slide will join the resident attractions for Inflatables Day tomorrow. They are included in the admission, so children can enjoy as many goes as they like without breaking the bank.

Mrs Back 2 Front will be



paying a visit on Friday and again next Thursday, August 13, while visitors can join in the Circus Magic Workshop on Monday. Mickey the Magician and Jon Jo Magic Man will then baffle the audiences on Tuesday and Wednesday,

August 11 and 12. On the afternoon of Friday, August 14, Dizzy Lolly will be leading the fun and mayhem.

Admission costs £7.50/£7 for adults and £6.50 for children, call 01227 751144 or see www.farming-world.com.

SCREEN ON THE GREEN

Various dates
St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury

DIGITAL technology comes to an historic setting this month with the Screen on the Green.

For the first time in its considerable history, St Augustine's Abbey will be transformed into a cinema and will provide the backdrop for three great films.

The movies will be projected onto a huge waterproof, inflatable screen using a state-of-the-art digital projector, giving film fans the chance to see some timeless movies outdoors.

Marilyn Monroe, Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis star in the popular Hollywood comedy, *Some Like It Hot*, this Friday and the audience can enjoy a modern



classic when Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo & Juliet* is screened on Friday, August 21. To mark the 25th anniversary of *This Is Spinal Tap*, the acclaimed comedy about a hapless rock band can be seen on Friday, August 28.

Kent actor George Wood is behind the open-air screen-

ings, which he hopes will be unforgettable experiences.

Seating is not provided, so take a chair or rug and enjoy a picnic during the showing. Tickets cost £8.50. To book call 01227 787787 or visit www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk. More information can also be found at www.the-screenonthegreen.com.



THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF YOUR LIFE

Running until Saturday, August 8
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury

CHAOS reigns when two schools are combined in *The Happiest Days of Your Life*.

The Old Stagers present John Dighton's great British comedy for their 158th season and it promises to be a riot of comical mayhem.

Just after the Second World War, a typical boys' school is mistakenly merged with a typical girls' school

and rebellious students set about creating havoc. As the staff struggle to keep control, they face increasing pressure to hide the new arrangements from parents.

Philip Noel and Shana Fleming play the headmaster and headmistress, while four Kent actors are among those playing the pupils – Charles Dawes from Ash-

ford, Rupert Berkeley from Sittingbourne, Richard Gould from St Margaret's and Rosanna Tennant from Aldington. Two other young actors, Rupert Stonehill and Susanna Kidd, are possibly the youngest ever to appear in an *Old Stagers* cast.

The top secret epilogue, a short musical revue called *The Naffest Waste of Your Life*, will be performed after the show on Friday and Saturday. Tickets are £10 to £18, call 01227 787787 or see www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk.

SWALE LEISURE

All folk can come and sing along at club night

BRING an instrument, sing a song or just join in the friendly atmosphere at Faversham Folk Club tonight.

The club is holding a Singers Night at the Chimney Boy in Preston Street, starting at 8.30pm. Admission costs £1 for everyone, whether a club member or non-member.

For more information about the club and upcoming events, call 01795 423674 or see www.favershamfolkclub.net.

Breakthru to some new sounds with rock band

GET ready to rock when Breakthru performs at a pub in Hernhill this weekend.

The band will be performing a variety of rock and blues covers at the Three Horseshoes in Staplestreet on Saturday. The gig starts at 8.30pm.

For more information about the venue call the pub on 01227 750842.

Fun activities are sure to keep your kids busy

CHILDREN are invited to enjoy sports, arts and crafts at locations across Swale during the summer holidays.

Thanks to Big Lottery funding, fully trained Play Rangers will be leading free events in Faversham, Sittingbourne and Sheppey between Monday and Friday on various dates until Friday, August 28.

For more information visit the events page at www.swale.gov.uk.

Tell our readers about your next gig or event

WOULD you like to see your concert or event publicised on these pages?

Send full details – including dates, times, ticket prices and how to book and a photo – to jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk or to the address on page 2. Submissions should arrive at least two weeks before the preferred date of publication.

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ON GENERAL RELEASE

HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE (12A)



With the evil Voldemort on the rise, the students at Hogwarts have to be ever more vigilant about who is among them.

BRÜNO (18)



Sacha Baron Cohen adopts the role of gay, crass, insolent fashionista Brüno from Austria, who tours the US looking to set up unsuspecting locals with his outrageous brand of 'interviewing'.

THE PRIVATE LIVES OF PIPPA LEE (15)



Robin Wright Penn stars as Pippa Lee, a woman heading for a mental breakdown after moving to a retirement village with her older husband, and subsequently has an affair with her friend's son.

Denzel's weighty role is not what doctor ordered

■ BY SHEREEN LOW

ACTOR Denzel Washington has managed to stay under the radar for more than a year.

Since the release of American Gangster and The Great Debaters in 2007, the Oscar-winning star has enjoyed a rare period of peace away from the glare of publicity.

"Between films I just get on with my normal life," says the 54-year-old, proudly.

Washington, who has been married to wife Pauletta for 25 years and has four grown-up children, is clear on how he has achieved what many celebrities can only dream of – managing to live his personal life in private and not splashed all over the tabloids.

"My life is kind of regular, private and normal," he admits, with an unapologetic shrug.

The sole reason for doing this interview is to promote his new nail-biting thriller, The Taking Of Pelham 123.

In the remake of the 1974 movie, he plays Walter Garber, a New York City subway dispatcher who gets caught in the middle of hostage negotiations during a subway hijacking.

"After playing Frank Lucas in American Gangster, I wasn't looking to play a big-time drug dealer next and that was my only criteria for this one," he explains.

The respected actor-director is almost unrecognisable because he had to pile on the pounds to play Walter, an opportunity he made the most of.

"I had been heading that way and so I went with it and kept going," Washington revealed.

"You just don't exercise, eat late, have that burger, fries, shake and dessert, and you can get there really easy!"

He adds: "I embraced it and really liked that



WEIGHT LIMIT: Washington had to pile on the pounds

aspect of this character that made him human and normal, struggling with the same things we all struggle with."

The extra weight – combined with a recent operation – posed a few problems for the actor, especially during the running scenes.

"I had just had knee surgery and it was heavily wrapped and the last thing the doctor said was, 'Don't do any running,'" he recalls.

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"When you see me run, that is 18 or 19 takes of me running really hard so that was challenging because then your ego is involved and you are thinking, 'I can't be out here huffing and puffing and looking bad', even though I'm overweight and had surgery."

Washington, who was raised in New York but now lives in Los Angeles, admits he enjoyed returning to his home town for the shoot.

"I've done a lot of movies in New York and to me, it was like home," he reminisces.

The Taking Of Pelham 123 teams Washington with John Travolta for their first on-screen adventure together.

"I didn't know him, but I'd met him before. It was an interesting relationship and interesting the way it developed, the way it did in the film."

THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123

Certificate 15



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WOMEN seeking men

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

Young lady, 20, enjoy meals out, cinema and socialising with friends, WLTm a man, 20-30, with similar interests. Eastbourne Box 454247 **1**

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Hi I'm Katie, caring, fun-loving, 5ft5, slim single mum of 2. Enjoy clubbing out and cosy nights in with genuine man. Box 453269 **1**

MATCH OF THE DAY!

Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 44694 **1**

NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GUY, BUT...

Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105 **1**

YOURS AND YOURS ONLY

Attractive, down-to-earth British-Indian single mum, 29, WLTm white British male, 29-34, no ties, for long-term relationship. Box 883431 **1**

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving lady female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471 **1**

A FAIRYTALE ENDING!

Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957 **1**

GOOD LUCK CHARM

Sporty female, 34, 5ft2, likes the gym, beach walks, Tennis and cycling, wilm similar male in his 30s for friendship in Eastbourne. Box 453712

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...

Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair. I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039 **1**

HAPPY DAYS!

Attractive, fun-loving female, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTm intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 338734 **1**

SEALED WITH A KISS

Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 **1**

STARRY NIGHTS

Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378

HISTORIC MEETING?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 **1**

GALLOP AHEAD!

Maidstone-based woman, 36, 5ft5, slim build, blue eyes, I'm caring, honest and have 4 children. I enjoy drives and horse riding, and WLTm honest, reliable man. Box 451311 **1**

LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102 **1**

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 39, 5ft6, likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614 **1**

CUTE AS CAN BE

Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983 **1**

ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED!

Lovely pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking a nice man for potential exciting relationship! Box 446724 **1**

A SOUL MATE

Black Christian girl, 39, likes country music, loving, considerate, kind and caring, looking for a like-minded man, 32-50, with a pretty inside. Box 453066 **1**



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TO THE STARS

Woman with a great sense of humour, I'm 40, and I like going out, astrology, writing, and socialising. How about you? Kent area. Box 453877 **1**

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901883 **1**

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, wilm a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 **1**

JOINED AT THE HIP

Sociable petite girl with great SOH, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Looking for fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 88034 **1**

PERFECT MATCH

Hi I'm Nikki, 5ft7, brown hair, green eyes, enjoys animals especially my pets. Looking for a tall man who has a personality compatible with mine Box 453374 **1**

SMILE!

Looking for a fun-loving guy for a LTR. I'm 41, works as a dental nurse, easy to get on with, always up for fun times. Sittingbourne Box 454827 **1**

THE WIT TO WOO!

Kent female, 40, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152862 **1**

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BETWEEN US

Asian lady, 41, single, no ties, outgoing, fun-loving, professional, looking for white male, genuine, professional and solvent. Box 451900 **1**

FOR A RELATIONSHIP?

Shy but confident once-known female, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106 **1**

I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY

Hello, I'm Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, gosh, looking for a man with no issues and gosh who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204 **1**

HELLO EVERYONE!

Single dog-winner, 42, fun-loving, kind and loyal, likes meals out, weekends away, country walks, WLTm a non-smoking guy to share it all with. Seaford Box 454569 **1**

BELLA ISABEL

Lovely, fun and caring brunette, 42, recently divorced, intelligent, hard working, fun-loving, WLTm a gent to socialise with. Box 878250 **1**

SMILES, LAUGHTER AND FUN

Country girl, 43, 5ft6, medium build, long natural auburn colour hair, green eyes, seeks man for long term relationship, fun, smiles and good times! Battle. Box 878304 **1**

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL

Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gosh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348 **1**

YOU NEVER KNOW

Kind, loving and caring mum, 43, 5ft5, round but cuddly! Just looking for someone to share my life with...how about you? St. Leonards-on-Sea. Box 446457 **1**

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY

Bubbly female, 44, brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 **1**

THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE

Lovely upbeat lady, 44, loves cinema, dancing and WLTm a non smoker who's that special someone to spend my life with. Maidstone. Box 454991 **1**

TLC ON OFFER FOR THE RIGHT PERSON!

Blonde, blue eyed woman, 44, fun-loving, looking for Mr Right. I love going out, nights in, movies, walking, local gigs. WLTm the right man for you! Box 880280 **1**

LOVE TO MEET YOU

Kind woman, 42, outgoing, happy-go-lucky, sometimes shy, I like gardening, socialising, travel, walks. Looking for happy, fun fella. Aylesford Box 428464 **1**

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156 **1**

STARTING OVER

Divorced 45yr old cuddly woman, brown eyes/hair, likes swimming, animals, cinema, soaps, the beach. WLTm a honest, non-smoking man for friendship, maybe more. Ashford Box 878141 **1**

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, wilm a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 **1**

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PERFECT MATCH

Hi I'm Nikki, 5ft7, brown hair, green eyes, enjoys animals especially my pets. Looking for a tall man who has a personality compatible with mine Box 453374 **1**

SMILE!

Looking for a fun-loving guy for a LTR. I'm 41, works as a dental nurse, easy to get on with, always up for fun times. Sittingbourne Box 454827 **1**

THE WIT TO WOO!

Kent female, 40, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152862 **1**

COULD IT BE YOU?

Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 883800 **1**

YOUNG AT HEART

Young 46, fun-loving but also mature, serious female, looking for someone fit, handsome, intelligent and full of fun. Box 884113 **1**

COME ON DOWN!

Honest, bubbly female 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising; seeks honest, friendly chap for friendship leading to more. Box 882693 **1**

FROM THIS MOMENT

Young-looking 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, n/s, affectionate, loyal and caring, looking for a male, 40-45, n/s, 5ft7, to share life with. Ashford. Box 454591 **1**

HEART AND SOUL

Easy-going single mum, 46, 5ft4, size 12/14, likes bowling, gardening, swimming, looking for a man, 35-49, slim/medium build with similar interests. Maidstone Box 454176 **1**

MAID MARIAN!

Hi, I'm Marian, petite, blonde, green eyes, 46, looking for my Mr Right, to have fun with and enjoy lasting relationship with. Box 447986

SOUND GOOD?

Hi I'm Lynne 46, 5ft4, dark hair/eyes, love reading/writing, going out, astrology, cars; seeking honest, caring, outgoing happy guy to enjoy music, fun, friendship and more! Box 449186 **1**

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?

Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366 **1**

HELP ME OPEN UP

Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTm male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585 **1**

BE MY FRIEND AND LOVER

Bubbly, caring lady, 47, divorced with 2 teenagers, dark hair, medium build, into cooking, driving, love to talk, laugh and have fun, seeking a normal guy Box 425952 **1**

ARE YOU LOVING & CARING?

Young 49 year old loving, caring, very bubbly, 5ft5, medium build, blonde blue eyes, likes clubs, cinema, eating out, cosy nights, good company Box 434089 **1**

CARING & PROFESSIONAL

Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings Box 471100 **1**

JUST IMAGINE

Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easy-going single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTm genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 **1**

HIT THE JACKPOT

Good-looking female, 50, looking for a kind, reliable and honest man, must be a moderate drinker, for companionship and romance. Box 878216 **1**

LOVELY BUBBLY

Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gosh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311 **1**

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BRING ME TO LIFE

Lighthearted female, 42, 5ft2, medium build, loves walking, socialising, swimming, holidays, looking for friendship maybe more. Box 453832 **1**

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Slim woman, 54, 5ft6, dark hair, enjoy gardening, walking, meals/drinks out, seeking a tall and slim like-minded man for friendship and romance. Maidstone Box 454851 **1**

YOU AND ME, MEANT TO BE?

Honest girl, 54, 5ft6, slim, green eyes and short dark hair, I love gardening, walks and meals, and WLTm similar man for potential relationship. Maidstone. Box 454949 **1**

MOVING ON

Blonde, blue-eyed solvent female, 54, chaf, young-looking, enjoys travel, dining out, conversation, swimming anything social! Seeking a like-minded man for a loving relationship. Eastbourne Box 877161 **1**

COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HOPEFULLY MORE

Curvy & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming. WLTm similar loving male. Box 443842 **1**

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795 **1**

ANIMAL LOVER

Attractive lady, non-smoker, aged 57, GSOH, I enjoy eating in/out, seeing friends, theatre, animals, and WLTm similar, non-smoking male. Box 452498 **1**

DREAMS OF YOU

Genuine, caring lady, late 50s, slim & young looking, looking for a loyal, considerate, N/S male for long term relationship. Box 448566 **1**

WALKS ALONG THE COAST

Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622 **1**

ONLY LOVE

Classy, intelligent, happy, slim, attractive, fit and active lady, 60, gosh, enjoys travel, gardening etc. Looking for that special friend to share life with. Box 883791 **1**

NEVER TOO LATE

Hello, I'm Betty, 62, cuddly widow, 5ft6, brown hair/brown eyes, gosh and love life, seeking a like-minded gent for companionship and more. Box 452329 **1**

CALL ME LOVE

Young at heart 63yr old woman, likes most things, looking for a genuine male, for friendship and more. Box 452662 **1**

LOTS OF TLC TO GIVE

Happy-go-lucky lady, 63, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, likes dancing, walking and holidays abroad, looking for a like-minded male for friendship, maybe a LTR. Box 452897 **1**

GENUINE LADY

Attractive lady, 60's, Hastings, slim, 5ft9, I like animals, walking and socialising. I have a GSOH, and WLTm a tall, gent, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 453327 **1**

NEARLY FOUND

Tall, slim, fair-haired lady, 68, sociable but lonely and looking to meet a man to take a special place in my life. Folkestone. Box 454993 **1**

Women seeking women

ANY OFFERS?

Curvy female, 26, 5ft6, blue eyes, likes reading, painting, walks and nights in/out, WLTm an honest, sincere and feminine female for a possible relationship. Box 452108 **1**

JUST A GIRL

Bubbly, feminine, attractive lady seeking the same! I'm slim, athletic, blond hair/blue eyes. I'm 28, and WLTm similar female. Box 878997 **1**

FUN AND MAYBE MORE

Passionate female, 37, new to town, WLTm passionate, genuine companions to socialise with, go out and have some fun, then see what happens. Ashford area. Box 880564 **1**



MEN seeking women

GET TO KNOW ME

Looking for friends, fun, and maybe something long term. I'm male, 22, green eyes/brown hair, 6ft tall, slim build. Box 453388 **1**

GO AROUND WITH ME

Young, fit and honest male, 24, looking for a nice woman for fun and relationship if possible. Box 454759 **1**

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME

Paul, 33, 5ft7, dark hair, blue eyes. I'm an honest, reliable and trustworthy guy. I like most sports and I'm looking for a soulmate Box 453042 **1**

BOTTLE OF WINE

Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5ft9, medium build, brown hair, I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450185 **1**

INTERESTED?

yourswalemusic

The Ambience are ready to make an even bigger noise

BY SIMON ROBINSON

IF there was a musical Ronseal Award for 'doing exactly what they say on the tin' it would most definitely go to The Ambience.

The Medway-based five-piece describe their sound as "ambient, indie, shoegaze". It stands to reason.

If only other bands and artists followed suit. The Kaiser Chiefs would be known as All Our Songs Sound the Same, McFly would be re-named Busted Part Two and James Blunt... well, we'll leave that one there.

But I digress. The Ambience will be playing at The Beacon Court Tavern, Gillingham, on Saturday. Support on the night comes from Let Our Enemies Beware.

The Ambience's guitarist Matt Ashdown said fans can expect to hear a number of new tracks, including forthcoming single Starrs.

He said: "You can expect a bigger sound from The Ambience as, musically, our new stuff has delved further into shoegaze and post-rock territory."

"Lots of noises and extra reverb pedals – for ear melting purposes. We're trying to bridge the gap between our accessible sound and our 'wall of sound' dabbling, which is why we're wanting to play gigs with bands like Let Our Enemies Beware – so that people can maybe hear us with a different mindset."

"Let Our Enemies Beware are a band I've put on myself several times now and I love what they do."

The Canterbury Street venue has filled its August gig diary, with Feed the Rhino, Maker



UPFRONT: The Ambience (above) will be supported by Let Our Enemies Beware (right) at Beacon Court Tavern

and The Kids Unique all set to headline in the coming weeks.

Beacon Court bosses have also booked Snakebite – a Whitesnake tribute band – to perform. For more information visit www.beaconcourttavern.co.uk.

BEACON COURT LINE-UP

Saturday August 8 – The Ambience, Sparrows, Let Our Enemies Beware, £3

Saturday 15 – Feed the Rhino plus guests, £4

Friday 21 – Maker plus support, £4

Saturday 22 – Snakebite, Whitesnake tribute, £5

Saturday 29 – The Kids Unique plus guests, £4



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CROWD PLEASER: Kingskin performing at the Create Festival in Ashford.



NOTE PERFECT: My Last Mistake play their own song Carving Out My Heart.



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Gristlefridge – The Westcoat Bar Margate, Aug 13
- 2 Los Salvadores – The Ivy Leaf Sheerness, Aug 15
- 3 My Last Mistake – Canterbury Tales Pub Gillingham, Aug 28
- 4 Directions – The Walnut Tree Eccles, Aug 31
- 5 Kayley Weller – Three Horseshoes Mongham, Sep 19

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DOROTHY PERKINS
Rubber bead collar,
price £10



MATALAN
Kaftan, price £10

DUNE
Left to right - Kiana, price £85; Kingley,
price £95 and Morello, price £70



SWALE SHOPPING

Artist to transform our children with face paint

A FACE painter will provide free family entertainment at The Forum tomorrow.

Kids will be transformed into lions, tigers, and butterflies during the session at the shopping centre in Sittingbourne.

The face painter will be at The Forum tomorrow from 11am to 4pm performing his creations free of charge.

He will also return on Thursday, August 20, to keep the youngsters entertained while their parents do the back to school shopping.

Lifestyle showcase to attract working mums

MOTHERS can find attractive products and career advice at a lifestyle showcase in Tunbridge Wells.

On Saturday the Tunbridge Wells Mums in Business group will be exhibiting goods from a diverse range of businesses. Working mums get advice about alternative and creative ways of working.

The event will be held in The Pantiles from 10am-4pm. For more information about the group visit www.twmumsin-business.wordpress.com.

Irene in line to become UK's top savvy shopper

A KENT woman has reached the final of Nectar's search for the UK's Savviest Shopper.

Irene Hall, from Hawkinge, submitted her top tip which was to never throw anything away. Her tips include drying orange peel in the oven and crushing it to use in her cookery.

Irene faces competition from ten other finalists to win the title. Readers can vote for her and find other tips online at www.nectar.com/savvishopper.

Young bookworms can go to cinema for free

CHILDREN can enjoy a free cinema admission at Bluewater if they read a book first.

The Bookworm Wednesdays scheme is running at the Showcase Cinema for five weeks during the summer holidays. Children can see a selected film for free at 10am every Wednesday until August 26 if they first present a book report at the box office. Accompanying guardians and children under six go free without submitting a book report.

Footballer's frustration good for stylish babies

TRENDY baby products are available for less with the sale at Mummy's Online Baby Shop.

The company was set up by former Chelsea and Leeds footballer Michael Duberry and his wife, when they became frustrated at being unable to find stylish and original products for their children.

Discounts of up to 50 per cent will be available until Friday, August 14. To see the full range visit the website at www.mummysonlinebabystore.com.

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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

 **DICKINSON'S REAL DEAL**
ITV1, 2pm, weekdays
TOP GEAR
BBC Two

WE are being swamped with shows about antiques.

Bargain Hunt, Cash in the Attic, Flog It... the list goes on.

I didn't know there were enough people in Britain with an interest in pointless old stuff to justify the deluge, but then maybe there are just too many people with too much time on their hands.

Having left Bargain Hunt, the show which made him famous, David Dickinson has returned to the fold to front his own show.

He stopped Hunt-ing to move on to bigger and better things but it cannot have taken off as he'd hoped.

It's a bit like when a star of EastEnders leaves to "take Hollywood by storm" only to make no impact and return to our screens three years later looking sheepish and embarrassed in trash like Hotel Babylon.

It sticks to the well-worn formula and The Duke is clearly in his element, acting it up, looking as tanned as ever and sporting the kind of bouffant hair that should require some kind of licence.

But you have to ask the question: does anyone really care if Bob and Margaret, from Poole, try and make a £10 profit on some old bit of toot picked up at the local bore-fest?

This is the TV equivalent of junk mail, pointless and uninteresting.

It's quite a well-known fact that The Duke spent three years in prison for fraud as a young man, but he never served time at Her Majesty's pleasure for crimes against television. He should have done, he would



REAL DEAL: David Dickinson's back on our TVs have received a life sentence.

I am not a huge car person, but have always watched and enjoyed Top Gear. The reason it became so popular was because it did something with cars that no-one else was doing and revelled in doing the outrageous.

However, the formula is so tried and tested, after umpteen series, that it all feels a little by the numbers now, and, for me, a lot of the fun has been drained out of it.

The races and challenges have started to get predictable, and that was a key element of the show.

It's still pulling in huge viewing figures, but the series ended on Sunday and I kind of hope they manage to come up with a few new ideas for the next one to keep things fresh.

Also, it's hard to take tips on what is cool and uncool from men dressed as badly, and with such bad haircuts, as Messrs Clarkson, Hammond and May.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)
OVERINDULGING in food and drink is taking a toll on your health. It's hard to find the energy for things you need to do when your system is overtaxed. Stay away from friends who encourage bad habits. Don't be surprised if several would be woodworkers come out of the woodwork.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)
SOMEBODY'S false compliments are giving you a skewed picture of reality. Be more sceptical of overblown praise. This week could see you reach a career milestone, resulting in a bigger pay cheque. You've been blessed with lots of artistic talent. Put it to use now, while you have a chance.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)
IT may be wise to put some distance between you and a solicitous colleague. They are pretending to be your friend because they want something. This is a good time to negotiate a raise, or at least some better work assignment, as you're more productive than your colleagues.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)
SOMEBODY may try to push you into an arrangement that goes against your conscience. You need to stand firm against temptation. It's possible they will even try to use their seductive charms if they have any. Stay close to supportive friends. They'll keep you grounded.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)
PEER pressure could be stopping you doing something you love. Don't be so self-conscious about doing what you want to do. Who cares what others think? A close friend gives you an added dose of courage. Stick close to them when it comes to pursuing a cherished dream.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)
RESIST the urge to indulge in retail therapy. Spending money on luxuries could plunge you into debt. You need to think about your long-term security. Putting down firm roots is a good idea. Don't be surprised if your boss widens your territory or asks you to live overseas.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)
FRIENDS are worried that you are losing your heart to someone who doesn't deserve it. Resist the urge to turn away when they express concern. You need to be more assertive with the object of your affection. If you suffer from jealousy you need to build up your self-esteem.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)
SOMEONE could try to trick you out of your hard-earned cash. Stand up for yourself. It would be a tragedy if you jeopardised your financial security. If you're looking for work, this would be a good time to go on interviews. Good news could arrive by the end of the week.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)
YOU'RE having an internal conflict between work and pleasure. Part of you wants nothing more than to stay home with your loved ones. The other half yearns to be a success in your chosen career. Strike a balance. This is your big chance to tell a friend how much they mean to you.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)
THE temptation to use your sex appeal to manipulate others is overwhelming. You know how much a person admires you. Pretending to share their feelings will be a cruel deception. You're better off appealing to their rational side. That way, nobody can accuse you of being underhanded.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)
JUST because you look great to the world doesn't mean all is well. Your flawless image is hiding some serious inner turmoil. You need to come to terms with feelings of anger, pain, and frustration. However, that doesn't mean abandoning a loved one or trading one lifestyle for another.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)
IF a romantic relationship is going to survive you need to be a little more kind and considerate. Lately, you've been focused on your own needs. This has caused you to snub the object of your affection. Take this opportunity to do something nice on their behalf.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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		1					5	
6			5	8				1
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	2					3		
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	6	3			5	1	7	9

MEDIUM

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HARD

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CRYPTIC CLUES

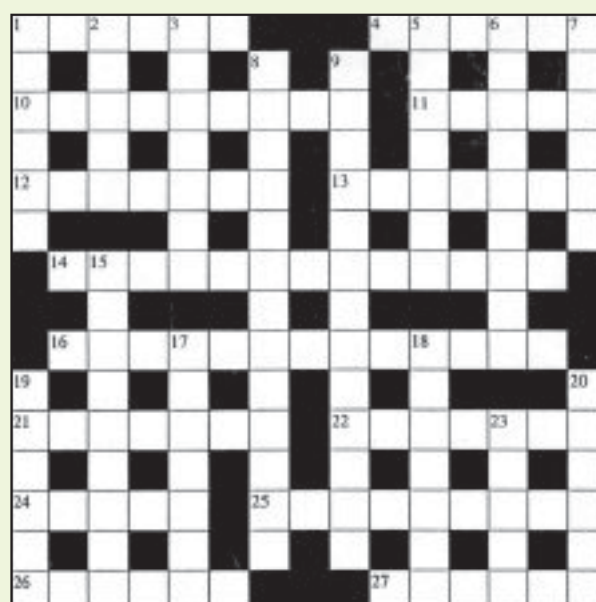
ACROSS

- 1 Odd collection of Biblical characters (3-3)
4 Queen isn't commonly fanciful (6)
10 Face irate eccentric in eatery (9)
11 Became motionless when water became ice (5)
12 Symbolic maths (7)
13 Considered even if before time (7)
14 Choosing the best fruit? (6-7)
16 With little warning by ad! (2,5,6)
21 Eggs returned to rotter who had nothing more than a pear (7)
22 One flying in from Granada via Torremolinos (7)
24 Picture fashionable clique (5)
25 Forthright ditch worker (9)
26 Being cunning in a vulpine way (6)
27 At college my clue was cracked (6)

DOWN

- 1 Sailor gave most of beer to the beast (6)
2 Obscure expeditionary force leaders in unstable ground (5)
3 Commander to be right for a month (7)
5 Remove clothing from the cloth (7)
6 Artificial origin can materialise (9)
7 Score five boundaries (6)
8 Big place on Isle of Wight or in Norfolk (5,8)
9 Beast damaging mat in cable-car! (8,5)
15 Beat a shot in cricket (3,3,3)
17 Become cheerful near the disaster (7)
18 Nervous idiot going over churchyard (7)
19 Seaman provided female with price list (6)
20 Promote movement not round for the time being (3,3)
23 In Sumatra Denis to do business (5)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Opinion (6)
4 Frequent fliers (3,3)
10 Contrariwise (4,5)
11 Trio (5)
12 Spiced herring (7)
13 Kind son (anag.) (3-4)
14 Flash of light (13)
16 Actually (2,5,2,4)
21 Avoiding contact with others (7)
22 Canal footway (7)
24 Two pints (5)
25 Food (9)
26 Lure (6)
27 Fanatic (6)

DOWN

- 1 Braved (anag.) (6)
2 Talkative (5)
3 Primitive person (7)
5 Having died out (7)
6 Delete (6,3)
7 With it (6)
8 Writing a letter (8,1,4)
9 Informal name for Mississippi (8,5)
15 Russian astronaut (9)
17 Inhabitant of largest continent (7)
18 Not a tall building (3-4)
19 Person from NE Spain (6)
20 Isle in NE Kent (6)
23 Gazelle (5)



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2	4	8	5	9	6	3	1	7
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8	1	2	7	5	4	6	9	3
4	3	9	8	6	1	7	2	5
6	5	7	9	3	2	1	4	8

MEDIUM

2	9	5	7	6	3	8	4	1
6	4	7	1	9	8	2	3	5
1	8	3	2	4	5	6	7	9
4	3	2	6	1	9	7	5	8
8	6	1	5	7	2	4	9	3
5	7	9	3	8	4	1	2	6
7	1	4	9	5	6	3	8	2
9	2	6	8	3	7	5	1	4
3	5	8	4	2	1	9	6	7

HARD

5	8	9	6	7	2	3	4	1
6	2	4	3	5	1	8	7	9
1	7	3	4	9	8	5	2	6
9	3	8	2	4	7	5	1	6
7	1	2	5	6	9	4	3	8
4	5	6	8	1	3	2	9	7
8	4	1	9	2	6	7	5	3
3	9	5	7	8	4	1	6	2
2	6	7	1	3	5	9	8	4

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No98

ACROSS: 8 Unnatural 9 Exude 10 Oligopoly 11 Licit 12 Rhyme nor reason 15 Rife 17 Amass 19 Stun 21 Solomon Islands 23 Waltz 24 Bombproof 26 Rerun 27 Sacrament. DOWN: 1 Antler 2 Gargoyle 3 Subpoena 4 Bail 5 Jellied 6 Quickset 7 Pertinent 13 Okapi 14 Crossword 16 Folklore 18 Salzburg 19 Syndrome 20 Amazing 22 Sloane 25 Oval.

QUICK SOLUTION No99

Basque 20 Thane 23 Ariel. Cosmonaut 17 Asiatic 18 Low-rise 19 8 Dropping a line 9 Magnolia State 15 3 Cavenham 5 Extinct 6 Strike off 7 Trendy. Entice 27 Zealot. 1 Advent 2 Vocal 22 Towpath 24 Quart 25 Nutrition 26 Scintillation 16 As large as life 21 Asocial 11 Three 12 Rollup 13 Non-skid 14. ACROSS: 1 Advice 4 Jet set 10 Vice versa

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website



Cash in on natural wonderland

BY WESLEY JOHNSON

WHILE Iceland sucked in cash from hapless UK savers before its banks crashed it has also welcomed Britons surprised how cheap it is to visit there.

Setting out from the capital of Reykjavik, less than a three-hour flight from the UK, I found that the city soon gives way to moss-covered lava fields, snow-capped mountains and ever-changing glaciers, interspersed with geothermal pools, geysers and powerful waterfalls.

Our driver Ragnar, who runs tours in a customised superjeep, avoided the overcrowded tourist trails while taking in Iceland's Golden Circle, a trio of the south coast's highlights.

The island's precarious position on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, where the North American and European tectonic plates meet, accounts for the almost entirely volcanic origin of its rocks. With the plates still moving, Iceland grows at about half an inch per year. The landscape, however, is unbelievably barren.

Volcanic eruptions occur once every three to five years, but many are concealed by the island's ice caps, which cover roughly 12 per cent of the country.

As the land underfoot constantly changes, Iceland hosts a series of spouting hot springs heated deep underground, which erupt through fissures in the ground.

At Strokkur (meaning 'churn'), one of the most popular sites, jets of hot water shoot 100 feet into the air every few minutes, drenching unsuspecting tourists, before being swallowed into the ground beneath once more.

Just ten minutes of standing in rain and biting wind – waiting for that elusive perfect photograph of the geyser – left my frozen face.



SIT BACK AND RELAX: Iceland's famous Blue Lagoon is a geothermal spa fed by the water output of a nearby power plant

Waterproofs and warm clothes are a must, even in spring with temperatures about four degrees Celsius.

Summertime in Iceland brings endless daylight and lush green panoramas broken only by the many colourful wild flowers. While the warmth nurtures nature back to vibrant life, the local calendar bulges with a myriad of events and activities.

Geographically only slightly smaller than England, Iceland has a population of around 300,000 – about the same as Coventry.

While its unspoiled landscape provides a chance to escape from it all, your weekend will have its surreal moments.

Sitting in a hot tub, looking out on Mt Hekla – one of Europe's highest volcanoes – I saw the weather change from sunshine to snow to hail to rain and back again within 40 minutes or so.

The hot tub in question was outside the Hotel Ranga, a countryside resort that welcomes its guests with a ten-foot polar bear in the foyer and a gourmet restaurant serving smoked puffin, among other local delicacies.

The south coast offers the prospect of some thrilling off-road driving. When we stepped from our superjeep to see a glacier melting and retreating before us, no other soul was around.

But for tranquillity and relaxation, you can't beat the famous Blue Lagoon, a geothermal spa fed by the water output of a nearby power plant. Its water stays at about 30-40C, is rich in silica and is known for its positive effects on the skin.

While I remain unconvinced that I will look young forever despite slapping all that white goo on my face, the waterfall offers an invigorating massage, taking you back to nature in a stunning setting amid craggy black lava.

FACT FILE: ICELAND

Time difference	None
Capital	Reykjavik
Language	Icelandic
Population	300,000
Currency	£1 equals 206 Icelandic Krona
Religion	Lutheran
Climate	Subpolar Oceanic

Travel facts

Wesley Johnson was a guest of Iceland Express, which flies daily from Gatwick to Reykjavik from £69 single, including taxes. Reservations: 0870 240 5600 and www.icelandexpress.com.

Discover the World offers three-night Reykjavik city break from £380pp, four-night self-drive itinerary from £602 and three-night escorted Superjeep Weekend Safari from £756.

Prices, based on two travelling until August, includes Iceland Express flights ex-Gatwick and B&B accom. Reservations: 01737 218 800 and visit www.discover-the-world.co.uk.

More reasons to visit Iceland can be found at www.visiticeland.com.



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PROPERTY NEWS

Council tax hike feared for homes with a view

HOMEOWNERS with properties having sea views or outlooks over rivers could end up paying more council tax, according to a national newspaper.

A story in the Daily Telegraph says the country's 22 million homes are being valued for council tax purposes on a range of factors including views, proximity to parks or the peacefulness of the street on which they are located.

The newspaper claims at least 100,000 homes have already been identified for higher taxes on the basis of their views and the information is being used to 'code' each property, which is expected to be used to set council tax after the next election.

The story says there are growing fears that Labour will increase council tax for millions of middle-class homeowners if the party is re-elected.

Every property in England is currently placed into one of eight council tax bands, depending on its value.

These valuations are based on property prices of the early 1990s, long before the property market boom.

Council tax bills for each band are then set by individual local authorities.

A revaluation was due to be conducted in 2007, but was postponed until after the next election. The Government has consistently denied conducting a national council tax revaluation.

The Valuation Agency, which rates properties for council tax, said it was important to maintain an accurate database.

Fall in average time it takes to sell a property

HOUSE prices were unchanged in July for the third month running, housing market analyst Hometrack said, suggesting the slump in the property sector may finally have come to an end.

Hometrack's monthly survey has reported zero per cent changes to house prices in May, June and July, but the analyst said it had seen some positive signs of an up-turn over the past four weeks.

The number of new buyers registering with estate agents rose by 2.8 per cent last month, Hometrack said, while the average time on the market for a property before selling fell to nine weeks, from 9.4 weeks in June.

Just three per cent of postcodes nationwide saw a decline in average prices, it added, while the typical buyer is now achieving a sale price of 91.5 per cent of their asking price.



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Conflicting reports over state of housing market

■ BY NICK AMES

GOOD housing news has emerged in recent days following the release of the latest figures for the property market.

Property website Rightmove has reported a 0.6 per cent rise in asking prices in July, taking the average vendor's stated amount to £227,864.

The property portal suggests that given June's slight fall of 0.4 per cent, the UK housing market could remain in a 'steady state' during the second half of 2009.

However, experts are warning people not to get too carried away as they have introduced cautionary notes to a recent upsurge in values – while some forecasts say the market will not be fully stable for three years.

According to Rightmove, the best time to pick up a bargain may have passed already, with a 'price undershoot' at the end of 2008, that appears to have rectified itself this spring.

The firm's commercial director Miles Shippside said: "There is now clear evidence that there were some fire sale prices last winter, when a few brave buyers correctly called the bottom of the market."

Furthermore, buyer activity on Rightmove's website has not seen the normal June and July tail-off, with the number of pages viewed remaining at 97 per cent of its spring high, compared to 79 per cent during the same period of last year.

July has also seen the number of new sellers at its highest so far this year, at 21,364.

While the figure is still well below the historic norm of around 35,000, it represents a 20 per cent increase on the same period of 2008.



WHAT'S THE TRUTH? Leading property website Rightmove claims the housing market will remain 'steady' for 2009

However, Mr Shippside added: "Many properties sold so far this year have been empty and therefore their sellers have lower price expectations."

"This new batch of more discretionary sellers will be under less financial pressure to negotiate, but must accept that their buyer will be looking to do a deal as much as they are."

But other predictions are not so optimistic.

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research is predicting that the UK housing market will only return to growth in 2012.

The forecast, from Britain's oldest independent economic research body, says that recent reports of 'green shoots' are purely down to a lack of properties for sale and will be short-lived.

With mortgage approvals for house buyers having plummeted 40 per cent on a year ago and showing a 65 per cent decline on pre-credit crisis days, the institute dismisses talk of house price stabilisation and recovery.

It states it will be three years before the market returns to a buoyant level.

Developer targeting those looking to rent

A PROPERTY developer is offering homes to buy at a cost of around £82 per week.

Hillreed Homes is targeting those looking at committing to a six or 12-month rental agreement by offering brand new apartments in Maidstone available for £331 per calendar month.

The apartments are at Orchard House, Hazlitt Drive, and have just been completed by the developers.

They are described by Hillreed as: "Contemporary, high quality one and two-bedroom apartments serviced by a lift to all floors within an area of established, suburban houses, creating a quiet environment in which to live."

"First-time buyers often do not realise that owning their own home and getting on the property ladder is not as daunting as they think," said Jo Richards, marketing and corporate manager.

"A global recession like the one we are experiencing is virtually unprecedented, so those who take advantage of the lower priced properties will, within a year or two, really come to realise what a superb purchase they have made in terms of capital growth."

"As a company established over 30 years and with head offices in the heart of Maidstone, we have worked closely with buyers in Kent for many years."

"We understand their dreams and aspirations, and build homes to meet these needs."

"During the recent months when things have been tough we have been able to offer help in a variety of ways, including offering the services of our financial advisors who give independent advice on the best products available."

"For homes up to £250,000 the company will subsidise your mortgage interest rate down to three per cent for two years."

"We have also been nurturing the 'Bank of Mum and Dad' as we realised that assistance from parents could be a successful investment for both parties particularly

as interest on conventional savings accounts is very small."

"With property prices at their lowest for some years, but with prices 'bottoming out', parents have found this an interesting investment opportunity."

The company said news deals on mortgages mean now is an excellent time to start looking at buying a first home.

Ms Richards added: "Renting is a no-win situation for a tenant."

"You are no further forward in terms of actual worth and your rent could go up. Buying a home and having control of your destiny is without doubt the way forward for most people."

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EAR8053 06/2009

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Sittingbourne



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Sittingbourne



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Sittingbourne



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MOTORS NEWS



Panda population hits the 1.5 million mark

FIAT'S Panda economy car has passed the 1.5 million production mark.

It still has a long way to go and will probably never beat the VW Beetle – 21-plus million were produced without major changes from 1938 to 2003 – because Fiat will surely develop an all-new version to stay competitive in today's fast-changing market. Nevertheless, it's impressive for a car launched just six years ago.

The former European Car of the Year has also supplied the underpinnings of the current cult car, the Fiat 500.



Peugeot attacking all fronts with crossover

PEUGEOT says its new 3008 crossover will be available from November starting at £15,995.

Clearly inspired by the Nissan Qashqai, the versatile newcomer is expected to rival many cars that offer elements of its high-riding SUV cum MPV style, such as the VW Golf Plus, Citroën C4 Picasso, VW Tiguan and Ford Focus C-Max.

It will be pitched as "a conventional car for daily use, the family car for weekends and holidays and the adventurous vehicle for those with an active life style".



Audi launches practical yet stylish new number

AUDI is effectively launching an A4 hatchback, but billing it as a five-door version of the closely related A5 coupé.

Furthermore, it will enjoy a sexier label than 'hatchback' when it arrives in October priced from £25,440 – Audi has applied the 'Sportback' suffix already used to glamorise the five-door A3.

Industry watchers are now arguing whether it will attract new sales for Audi or simply cannibalise existing sales of the A4 saloon or its Avant estate sister – its boot capacity almost equals the latter.



COMEBACK TRAIL: Ford will be hoping that its new green machine the Mondeo EConetic will claw back some of sales it has lost in a sector which, until fairly recently, it dominated

Greener Mondeo aims to claw back its sector

MARKET shorthand for the classic family car cum company motor continues to be 'Mondeo sector'.

It underlines Ford's decades of domination in that particular arena, but upmarket upstarts like the BMW 3-Series and Audi A4 carved lumps off in recent years and Vauxhall's svelte new Insignia has outsold it so far this year.

Perhaps Ford's latest Mondeo model will stop the march of these rivals though, especially as it is also one of the greenest in the sector.

It is the new six-speed 2.0-litre, 115PS (113bhp) Mondeo EConetic offering a potential average of 54mpg and claimed 64mpg for motorway cruising, CO2 emissions of just 139g/km translating into Band E (£120/year) road tax and low benefit-in-kind taxation for company car user choosers.

Priced from £20,795 it is sold in five-door hatch or estate form, both versions featuring familiar 'eco' aids including low-rolling resistance tyres, optimum gear change indicator and better aerodynamics, a rear spoiler and sports suspension to lower the car.

And while the EConetic is intended to be miserly on fuel, there is no sign inside that it

ROAD TEST FORD MONDEO

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

is an austerity model. Add-ons include dual-zone automatic temperature control, Bluetooth connectivity with voice control for the phone and sound system, cruise control, seven airbags and heated front windscreen.

The new engine option supplements the existing 1.8-litre, 125PS (123bhp) Mondeo EConetic, but feels a lot smoother and should help Ford boost its eco-friendly sub-brand this year – more Mondeo customers bought an EConetic in the first five months of 2009, than throughout 2008.

The well-spaced six-speed change feels slick and underpins the Mondeo driving experience.

Handling is slightly compromised by harder compound tyres, but the EConetic comes with ESP (electronic stability control) and emergency brake assist for extra sure-footedness.

There is also the 'standard-fit' space and versatility of the Mondeo cabin, but Vauxhall has its own green rival – the Insignia ecoFLEX – and both are shadowed by the BMW 3-Series, which comes with a fuel-saving, emissions-cutting EfficientDynamics eco package as standard, is coveted by company car users and also pleases fleet managers and lease companies with its low depreciation.



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Sun 10:00 - 16:00

Official Government Test Environmental Data - Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Corsa SXi 1.3CDTi (75PS): urban 49.6 (5.7), extra-urban 74.3 (3.8) combined 62.8 (4.5). CO₂ Emissions 119g/km.

Model shown has optional metallic paint available at extra cost. 3 Years 0% Finance available with 20% minimum deposit. Finance by GMAC UK plc, applicants must be aged 18 or over. Finance offer available at participating retailers. UK supplied vehicles only. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. To be eligible for the Corsa Free Insurance offer Corsa SXi drivers must be aged between 19-80 and will need to have held a full UK/EU driving licence for at least 2 years. A compulsory excess of £250 will apply. Please note that additional excesses do apply in respect of young drivers and modifications. Vauxhall Motor Insurance is underwritten by Provident Insurance plc, authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Free insurance in Northern Ireland is underwritten by AXA Insurance Limited, regulated by the Financial Regulator and obliged to comply with the ICOB rules issued by the Financial Services Authority. The free involuntary redundancy cover is optional and is offered to customers who take out a finance agreement with GMAC from a participating FSA authorised retailer. The cover, which is subject to eligibility, is for the first 24 months of the finance agreement (excluding the first 90 days, and is up to a maximum of 12 monthly payments). Terms and conditions apply (see Retailer for further details of cover). The insurance is provided by Finance Insurance Company Limited. Other providers of redundancy cover are available, for more information see www.moneymadeclear.fsa.gov.uk. £2000 Government Scrappage Allowance is dependent on the vehicle meeting the full Government Scrappage incentive criteria. The Government Scrappage payment applies to vehicles registered on or before 31.08.99 when traded in against a new car subject to conditions. All offers available to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. Offers apply to selected new vehicles ordered or registered between 03.07.09 and 01.10.09, and are subject to status, eligibility, terms and conditions. (Vaux75615)

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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

SKODA FABIA



BADGE snobs have had Skoda jibes stuffed down their throats as the Czech brand continues to score in customer satisfaction surveys – its cars are cheap to repair too. The sweet handling Fabia comes only in five-door hatch and ugly estate formats, but there is plenty of other choice on engine and trim – there is even an impressive diesel vRS hot hatch version. The VW-derived diesels are economy kings, but do not ignore the cheaper to buy petrol models.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

HYUNDAI GETZ



REPLACED earlier this year by the i20, the Getz signalled Hyundai's arrival on the European market, with a thoroughly modern supermini. It does not excel in any area, but neither does the Korean car fall short anywhere either. Available in three and five-door form with a five-year warranty, it has some engines in road tax band-B, including an efficient diesel. Securing a good deal – with some warranty intact – should not be hard either, though reliability is not a worry.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

NISSAN MICRA



BORING Nissan? Well, the current Micra has blown that myth apart (pictured). This is the supermini that says you don't have to conform to style to be space-efficient and you don't need a French badge to be chic – although Renault now owns Nissan. The Micra still turns heads and looks 'right' in three or five-door form. It's affordable and reliable, available with excellent diesels and marketed with stylish trim in the dearer versions. There are even some performance models.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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AUDI

A4, 2.0 multitronic diesel auto, 2005, blue metallic with grey cloth interior, 121000 miles, £7850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

RS6, CAT D REPAIRED, 2003, grey with black leather, 27000 miles, £13995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

BENTLEY

ARNAGE, r auto, 2002, green metallic with green leather, 61000 miles, £34950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, 318 ci es coupe, 2005, silver metallic with charcoal, 45800 miles, £7950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 325 ci sport convertible auto, 2002, topaz blue metallic with grey leather sport seats, 93000 miles, £7950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 325 i se manual touring, 2001, crystal green met with green cloth, 122000 miles, £3950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 318 ci es, 2005, orient blue metallic with black leather, 22800 miles, £10850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 523ise, 2007, sapphire black metallic with grey cloth interior, 43800 miles, £14950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

X5, 3.0 sport automatic, 2002, topaz blue metallic with black dakota sport leather, 104365 miles, £9850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

X5, 4.4i v8 auto, 2001, mahogany metallic with mahogany montana leather, 39700 miles, £10850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

DAEWOO

LEGANZA, cdx auto, 1998, silver, 80000 miles, £1995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

FIAT

PUNTO, 1.2, 2002, burnt orange, 52651 miles, £1995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 2004, met blue, 50234 miles, £3995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

FORD

ESCORT, 1998, green, 86786 miles, £995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.8TDCi Zetec Climate, 2007, moon dust silver, 13137 miles, £9795, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 LX, 2006, aquarius, 22000 miles, £5995, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.8 Titanium, 2008, ocean blue, 6000 miles, £12995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.4 TDCi LX, 2006, jeans, 25000 miles, £8295, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FOCUS, LX 1.8 TDCi 115 PS, 2007, blue metallic with charcoal, 50000 miles, £5995, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

FOCUS C-Max, 2006, tango red, 32000 miles, £6995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.6 TDCi Zetec Climate, 2006, jeans, 33000 miles, £7795, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.4 Zetec Climate, 2006, moon dust silver, 16000 miles, £6995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FUSION, Plus 1.4, 2006, tonic, 28000 miles, £6995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

KA, 'New Shape' Zetec 1.3 TDCi, 2009, disco, 2000 miles, £8995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0 TDCi Titanium 5dr, gn08kxe, multichanger, 15903 miles, £15000, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

STREETKA, 1.6 ICE Roadster, 2006, metallic ice silver with black leather, 28000 miles, £8495, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, Connect T200 75ps 1.8TdcI, 2007, white with grey, 37000 miles, £4995, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, 2.5 MINIBUS WITH HYDROLIC RAMP, 1996, white, 100122 miles, £995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, Medium Roof Van TDi 110ps***AIR CON***BLUETOOTH***, en08bd, 30 miles, £15000, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, Low Roof Van L TDDi, gl09smc, panel van, cd player, remote locking, finance available, full dealer facilities, pc, swb, white, 50 miles, £7995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, Low Roof Van TDCi 125ps, bf07evm, panel van, 1 year warranty and roadside assistance, day cab, finance available, full dealer facilities, ply lined, swb, white, 45600 miles, £7995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, 280 SWB Low Roof Van ***SWB***, na55eob, panel van, finance available, full dealer facilities, hp+leasing, ply lined, swb, warranty, white, 18036 miles, £2495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, Ex/F Luton TDi 115ps (DRW), na55uzd, luton van, full dealer facilities, tail lift, white, 66000 miles, £3795, Crayford, 01232 621867 (TRADE)

LAMBORGHINI

DIABLO, 1998, purple metallic with cream leather, 57000 miles, £59950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

MAZDA

BT-50, Ranger Single Cab only 3500 miles, lx08ymg, finance available, full dealer facilities, hp+leasing, warranty, warrantied mileage, silver, 3468 miles, £7499, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

MERCEDES BENZ

CL, 500, 2000, silver metallic with grey full leather, 84700 miles, £7950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CL, 500 auto coupe, 2002, silver metallic with dark grey leather, 93000 miles, £10950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CLK, 320 avantgarde auto convertible, 2005, silver metallic with black leather, 88000 miles, £12950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

A150, Classic SE Manual 5 DR Classic SE, 2006, comet grey, metallic, 27871 miles, £8294, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

A150, 5 DOOR Classic SE, 2009, mistral blue, 3500 miles, £13998, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

A160, 5dr Classic SE, 2009, horizon blue metallic, 3000 miles, £16998, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, 2009, iridium silver metallic, 520 miles, £29997, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Avantgarde, 2007, iridium silver, 26772 miles, £17998, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, Sport, 2008, iridium silver metallic, 2816 miles, £24580, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Avantgarde, 2008, grey metallic, 13410 miles, £19980, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

E280 CDI, 2009, silver, 7000 miles, £28500, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

E280 CDI, Executive SE, 2009, iridium silver metallic, 6000 miles, £28990, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

E320 CDI, Sport, 2007, iridium silver metallic, 16800 miles, £23765, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

MG

TF, 2002, blue with half leather, 42000 miles, £3995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 1.6, 2004, black metallic with black and beige two tone leath, 50000 miles, £7950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

MINI COOPER 1.6 (120BHP) 3-DOOR HATCHBACK

MINI COOPER S 1.6 (175BHP) 3-DOOR HATCHBACK

MITSUBISHI

COLT, 1.3 C22 5dr 'Parking Sensors', gk58vgf, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, driver airbag, folding rear seats, electric windows, foglights, immobiliser, head restraints, passenger airbag, radio/cd, power assisted steering, rear headrests, cruise control, electric mirrors, locking wheel nuts, multi function steering wheel, remote locking, insurance group:5, black, 7500 miles, £7995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

L200, Double Cab 2.5 Td Trojan, ej58ych, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, leather seats, locking wheel nuts, power assisted steering, remote locking, silver, 27000 miles, £8995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LANCER, 1.6 Elegance 4dr Auto, ly05fwrfl, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, leather seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio/cd, rear headrests, insurance group:9, silver, 12520 miles, £4695, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LANCER, 2.0 Di-D GS4 4dr, 09, 200 miles, £17995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

OUTLANDER, II 2.0 Di-DC Warrior 5dr, lx57xsl, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, climate control, computer, cruise control, dvd, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, multi function steering wheel, power assisted steering, insurance group:11, silver, 17300 miles, £15495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

NISSAN

350Z, 3.5 V6 GT Pack, mf57vzp, leather, charcoal, 18" alloy wheels, 6 cd autochanger, air-conditioning, alarm, Bose audio system, Brembo disc brakes, climate control air conditioning, cruise control, electric heated front seats, electronic stability program (esp), front side and curtain airbags, power assisted steering (pas), remote control keyless entry, trip computer, xenon headlights, universal silver, 9000 miles, £18495, 0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

ALMERA, 2.2d se+, 2001, silver, 0 miles, £2995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

NP300, 2.5dCi 133 4x4, ov58auw, cloth, carbon, chrome front grille, driver's airbag, electric front windows, extended cab with opening windows, front fog lamps, heated rear window, nats immobiliser system, passenger airbag, power assisted

steering (pas), single cd player, tilt adjustable steering wheel, blade silver, 1000 miles, £11495, 0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

PRIMERA, SI, 1997, red, 0 miles, £995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

206, hdi, 2002, grey, 0 miles, £3595, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

206, GTi 2.0 16v, 2005, silver with charcoal leather, 28000 miles, £5495, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

206, GTi 1.6 Hdi 110ps, 2005, moonstone silver with black leather, 51000 miles, £5995, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

207, S 1.4 Hdi, 2006, grey metallic with charcoal trim, 46000 miles, £5995, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

306, lx, 2000, green, 0 miles, £1295, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

306, lx, 2000, green, 50166 miles, £1895, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

406, LX Hdi 110 diesel cheap tax, 2001, silver, 147985 miles, £1595, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

406, v6, 2000, silver, 0 miles, £1295, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PROTON

SAVVY, 1.2 Style 5dr, rx06cxg, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, driver airbag, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests, red, 17500 miles, £4495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

RENAULT

CLIO, 1.2 16V Dynamique 3dr Air Conditioning, lv09ly, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, insurance group:3, black, 1400 miles, £9995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

ROVER

25, il, 1589cc 5 door, 2003, abs brakes sunroof central locking alarm driver's airbag power steering history check immobiliser electric windows, blue, 51350 miles, £3495, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

400, 414 petrol, 1997, blue, 98000 miles, £750, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

SEADOO

XP, BOMBARDIER, 1997, yellow, 0 miles, £1695, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

SEAT

LEON, 1.9TDI Reference, 2007, silver with charcoal trim, 34000 miles, £7995, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

SKODA

FABIA, 1.2 Comfort Hatchback 5d 1198cc, 04/2004, electric windows electricdoor mirrors a/con radio/cd player pas abs, metallic silver, 30, 000 miles, £4995, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

SMART

FORTWO, 1.5 cdi passion diesel, 2006, blue and silver with grey cloth interior, 14000 miles, £5950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

FORTWO CABRIO PASSION, 2005, jack black, 32037 miles, £6299, Maidstone, 0845 481 6488 (TRADE)

FORTWO CABRIO PASSION, 2009, silver metallic, 4000 miles, £9699, Maidstone, 0845 481 6488 (TRADE)

FORTWO COUPÉ GRANDSTYLE, 2006, racing green, 17350 miles, £5999, Maidstone, 0845 481 6488 (TRADE)

FORTWO COUPÉ PASSION, 2006, sugar candy pink, 7262 miles, £5999, Maidstone, 0845 481 6488 (TRADE)

FORTWO COUPÉ PULSE, 2008, deep black, 5000 miles, £6599, Maidstone, 0845 481 6488 (TRADE)

FORTWO COUPÉ PURE, 2009, ice white, 2500 miles, £6999, Maidstone, 0845 481 6488 (TRADE)

SUZUKI

SK4, 1.6 GLX Hatchback 5d 1586cc, 07/2007, keyless start a/con radio/cd

player front fog lights reversing aid alloy wheels heated door mirrors, turquoise metallic, 2500 miles miles, £6995, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

VITARA, 4u soft top, 2000, black, 0 miles, £1995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

TOYOTA

COROLLA, VIDA VVTi 1.4 petrol, 2000, red, 120000 miles, £1495, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

YARIS, 1.3 VVT-i TR 5dr MMT, gl08dfc, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, insurance group:3, silver, 10000 miles, £8995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

ASTRAVAN SE Sportive, 2008, approved history check, star silver, 5760 miles, £10995, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

VIVARO, 2008, approved driver's airbag multiple airbags power steering history check, white, 16650 miles, £8495, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

VIVARO, Sportive 2700 SWB 2463cc, 2007, 0 miles, £0, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

ZAFIRA, 1.6 Life, 2008, star silver, 2339 miles, £9995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

VOLKSWAGEN

LUPO, 1.4s, 1999, yellow with grey cloth, 34900 miles, £2950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

VOLVO

S60, 2.4D5 S 185ps, 2006, silver with black half leather, 45000 miles, £7995, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

S70, CD 10v, 1998, red with cream leather, 78731 miles, £1795, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

V70, SE T5 AUTO, 1999, cream, 130000 miles, £2995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

SELL YOUR CAR

Buy 2 weeks and get the 3rd FREE

FORD FOCUS LX 1.6 01/Y
5dr, Hatchback, Met
Red, FSH, 1 Owner
30,000 Miles, £7995
01234 567890

£7
Lineage
p/wk

Lineage
Approx. 20 words

FORD FOCUS LX 1.6
01/Y, 5dr, Hatchback,
Metallic Red, Full Service
History, 1 Owner, Power
Steering, Elec
Windows, ABS,
30,000 Miles, £7995
01234 567890

£9-50
3x1 Box Ad
p/wk

3x1
Max. 25 words

FORD FOCUS LX 1.6

01/Y, 5dr, Hatchback, Metallic Red, Full Service
1 Owner, Power Steering, Electric Windows
Sunroof, 30,000 Miles. Tel 01234 567890

£7,995.00

6x2
Max. 25 words

£22
6x2 photo
p/wk

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Contact us on:
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Email: advertising@kosmedia.co.uk

Deadline for advertisements for the newspapers: Friday midday

We can process your payment via telephone, fax, post or email using all major credit cards.



Photographs

You can send in a photograph via email to advertising@kosmedia.co.uk. If you are unsure please telephone one of our advisors on **01303 817150**.

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Advertisement in the 'Your Local' of your choice reaching thousands of adults across 'Your Local' area regularly each week.

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TO ADVERTISE: EMAIL US @: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk

TELEPHONE US ON: 01303 817040

FAX US ON: 01303 817004

- ACCOUNTANCY
- ADMINISTRATION, SECRETARIAL, PA
- AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, ENVIRONMENT
- ART AND DESIGN
- CATERING, HOSPITALITY
- CONSTRUCTION, ARCHITECTURE, SURVEYORS
- CUSTOMER SERVICE, CALL CENTRE
- DOMESTIC
- EDUCATION, TEACHER, SCHOOL
- ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURING, UTILITIES
- ESTATE AGENCY, PROPERTY

- GRADUATE, TRAINEES
- HEALTH AND SAFETY, SECURITY, DEFENCE
- HR, RECRUITMENT
- INDUSTRIAL, WAREHOUSE, FACTORY
- IT, INTERNET, TELECOMS
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- MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY
- MANAGEMENT, SENIOR POSITIONS
- MARKETING, ADVERTISING

- MOTOR TRADE, DRIVER
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- NURSING, MEDICINE, CARE WORK
- OTHER
- PRINT, PACKAGING, DISTRIBUTION
- PR, MEDIA, JOURNALISM
- PUBLIC SECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES
- RETAIL, WHOLESALE, SALES
- SCIENTIFIC AND PHARMACEUTICAL, RESEARCH
- TRANSPORT, LOGISTICS, AVIATION

Senior & General Appointments

41-44

Ancillary CPI Assistants Mackays

Opportunities have arisen for the above positions to carry out all aspects of Ancillary work within our Book Production facility. The successful candidates must have good communication skills and be able to work as part of a team. Previous factory experience working with machinery is desirable but not essential. Full training will be given to those candidates that are successful.

Rate of pay dependent on shift(s) Mon-Fri 6.00am – 1.30pm / 1.30pm – 9.00pm for days - £304.52 and Mon - Thurs 9.00pm – 6.00am for nights - £380.65 per week. Shift pattern will vary.

To apply: Send applications and CV's to Mrs C Barnes, HR at CPI Mackays of Chatham, Badger Road, Lordwood, Chatham, Kent ME5 8TD by 7th August 2009.

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

Community Drug Workers

£21,306 – £27,573 + ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE OF UP TO £1,170 EAST/WEST KENT AND MEDWAY

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

Could you help chaotic injecting drug users to stabilise their use and begin shaping better lifestyles? It is a big challenge that will see you work closely with medical staff as you deliver assessment and key worker support to people accessing the substitute prescribing service.

Significant experience of working with individuals with drug related problems is desirable, along with a qualification to diploma level in a relevant area – nursing, counselling or social work for example. As for your future, there is the opportunity to make a huge impact on people's lives and help grow our services into the future working as part of a multi-disciplinary team.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference: 589.

Closing date: 21 August 2009.

Interview date: 2 September 2009 in Maidstone.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity no: 292824.

www.kca.org.uk



**Canterbury Store Require
Coffeshop Supervisor**
Excellent Customer service skills & food standards Staff Management
**Maidstone Store Require
Food Service Assistants (P/T and Sat)**
Excellent Customer service skills
No late nights No Sundays.
Please contact Andrea Thorncroft 01892 773611 andrea@candfabrics.co.uk

**Gordon Lodge
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requires
**EXPERIENCED
COOK**
Please contact
Debbie or Diane on
01843 831491

Upton House
Requires a
**CARE ASSISTANT/
NIGHT CARE
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2/3 days per week
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**£300-£500pw and more!
NO EXPERIENCE?**

- FULL TRAINING PROVIDED!!
Experienced Telesales up to £800pw and more!
Basic plus bonus plus commission.
Rapidly expanding company based in Margate seeks positive and self-motivated individuals to sell our unique award-winning products to UK businesses over the phone.
Mon-Fri, 09.00 - 17.00 only

Contact James on 020 7482 8895 or by e-mail with cv at info@ciglobal.eu

Great Opportunity for CHEF / COOK

To cook fresh food for friendly family-owned pub.
Full or Part Time position available to include evenings, weekend, and split shifts.
Start wage £7.50 p/h

Contact us on 01474 872300 or e-mail val@thewhiteswanpub.co.uk

Baileys Nissan Canterbury require a

SERVICE ADVISOR

Previous experience essential.
Pleasant, helpful personality is also essential.

Please contact David Jackson, Service Manager on 01227 766777

BAILEYS CANTERBURY
WESTMINSTER ROAD, VAUXHALL INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, CANTERBURY, KENT CT1 1YY
TEL: 01227 766777
e-mail: david.jackson@baileysnissan.co.uk
www.baileysnissan.co.uk

Nicholas James Care Homes Ltd,
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REGISTERED NURSES, CARERS, DOMESTIC STAFF
Required by the above company for homes in the Canterbury, Whitstable, Herne Bay area.
For details please contact:
Eileen Laherty, Group Manager - Mob: 07970 051698
Email: eileen.laherty@njch.co.uk

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£1,000-£2,500 per month
F/T or P/T Full Training Available
Call Sara on 01795 532201
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Ifield Special School, Cedar Avenue, Gravesend, Kent DA12 5JT
Telephone: 01474 365485

BUS DRIVER

20 hours per week term-time only
New Kent Scheme Grade 3 – Points 7 to 11
(£14,099 to £15,984 per annum pro-rata)

We have a vacancy for a part-time Driver. The successful candidate will be responsible for transporting pupils to and from the school at the beginning and end of the day and for overseeing the school vehicles. There will also be opportunities to assist with maintenance and caretaking duties.

The successful candidate will need to be flexible and self-motivated, have good communication skills and a valid mini-bus licence.

For a job description and application form please contact the headteacher, Mrs Pam Jones.

Website: www.ifieldschool.com
E-mail: ifieldschool@aol.com
Closing date: 17th August 2009

Ifield School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Appointment to this position will be subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check.



Is this the job for you?

ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, high-quality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities.

Due to our continued growth we now require for our new homes in

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the following staff to complement our team:

SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS

Salary from £15,250

SUPPORT WORKERS

Salary £13,250

NIGHT SUPPORT WORKERS

Salary £13,250 • 35 hours per week

We also require **BANK WORKERS**

For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com
Alternatively e-mail michelle.jenkins@achuk.com
or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8841.

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KOS Media is a highly successful newspaper publisher within Kent, that has received many awards from the newspaper industry.

We now have vacancies in our Production Department for experienced

Mac Operators (Weekends)

We are looking for experienced, confident and self-motivated team players, preferably with newspaper experience, who are seeking to further their career within the industry. The individual must have relevant Mac experience, including knowledge of Quark, Photoshop and Illustrator.

The position involves creating visuals for customers, ad setting, including property and motors, creating classified sections and make-up of pages to be sent to our printers. The candidate should be able to work under pressure, meet strict deadlines and be eager to work within a team environment to ensure the smooth operation of our fast-paced production department.

Hours will be Friday to Monday.

Previous applicants need not apply.

To apply, send a CV and covering letter to:

Personnel
KOS Media
Apple Barn
Hythe Road, Smeeth
Kent TN25 6SR

or email: personnel@kosmedia.co.uk



Award winning publications
www.kentnews.co.uk



MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

Hourly Paid Lecturers

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Sessional Lecturers

Hourly rate: £20.37 - £27.17

Beauty Therapy
Plumbing/Heating
Carpentry
Public Services
Business Management (Higher Education)
Catering
Biology
Psychology

Electrical Installation
Health Care
Child Care
Sport
Brickwork
Sociology
Chemistry

Closing date: Friday 14 August 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following areas:

Lecturer in Sport Ref: P0102

Salary: £20,700 - £29,622 per annum/pro rata. Full time and part time positions available

The College is looking for passionate and enthusiastic professionals to join the Sports team to teach, assess and participate in the development of Sports programmes. The successful candidates will hold at least a level three qualification and have some teaching/training experience along side industrial expertise. They must hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. Previous applicants need not apply.

ICT Technical I.L.T Support Engineer Ref: P0653

Salary: £18,433 - £23,640 per annum

The College is looking for passionate and enthusiastic professionals to join the Sports team to teach, assess and participate in the development of Sports programmes. The successful candidates will hold at least a level three qualification and have some teaching/training experience along side industrial expertise. They must hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. Previous applicants need not apply.

Closing date: Friday 21 August 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in Musical Theatre

Ref: P0654

Salary: £20,700 - £29,622 pro rata
18.5 hours per week

The Performing Arts department is looking for an experienced professional to teach on its Musical Theatre programmes. Working with students in both Music and Performing Arts the successful candidate would play a key role in the rehearsal and production process of performances. Knowledge and experience of the industry is essential. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Business Management (Higher Education) Ref: P0653

Salary: £20,700 - £29,622 pro rata
18.5 hours per week

MidKent College is looking to recruit an exceptional candidate with an innovative and enthusiastic approach to contribute to the teaching of a range of Higher Education Business Management programmes. The successful candidate will have excellent communication skills and working knowledge of the Further/Higher Education sector, and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Closing date: Wednesday 19 August 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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ETHELBERT CHILDRENS SERVICES

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Area Manager

Kent

We are seeking to appoint an Area Manager to join our senior management team in Kent. The role is to ensure the Registered Managers are supported and developed in delivering a high level of childcare within our residential homes across Kent and into SE London

Essential Specification:

- A firm foundation in childcare with a Dip.SW / RMA or equivalent qualification.
- Substantial knowledge and experience of supporting children who 'are looked after' and the ECM Framework.
- Previous Residential / Social work management experience.
- A good knowledge and working understanding of National Minimum Standards and the Ofsted inspection process.
- Strong motivation and leadership skills.
- This role offers an excellent salary (dependant on knowledge and qualifications) and benefit package.

Home Managers

Wanting to further your career? We invite applications from knowledgeable and qualified candidates for this role to ensure that our high level of care practice is maintained within existing staff teams. You will be responsible for ensuring that you lead and develop your team, to meet our expectations on the service our organisation support.

The role offers good salary and benefit packages, including Health Plan, Pension and support from Area Managers.

Please contact the Personnel Department for an application form:
Cheesemans Farmhouse, Alland Grange Lane, Manston, Kent, CT12 5BZ
01843 823762 or email jackie.brandon@ethelberthomes.co.uk

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With campuses in Ashford, Folkestone and Dover, South Kent College offers a wide range of courses from Entry Level to Level 7 and caters for over 10,000 students of all ages. We currently have the following opportunities at our Folkestone campus:

Lecturer – Multi Crafts

(Fixed Term until 16/07/2010) Variable Hours

Ref: T1388 & T1394

Main duties include teaching theoretical and practical aspects to full and part-time students at all levels of ability and across a wide age range in the Multi Crafts area, particularly in Painting & Decorating or Bricklaying. You will prepare and deliver lectures and prepare and mark assessments, projects and tests and be committed to student success. You may also be expected to teach basic aspects of some other trade areas such as Plastering and Plumbing.

You will have NVQ Level 3 or equivalent in Painting & Decorating or Bricklaying. A teaching qualification e.g. Certificate in Education, DTLS or equivalent and Assessor Awards (A1, V1) or willingness to achieve these upon appointment. Recent and relevant industrial experience in general building is required, as well as demonstrable in-depth knowledge of your trade area.

The closing date for receipt of applications is Thursday 30th July. Interviews will be held on Friday 7th August.

For further information or an application pack please contact the Human Resources Department on 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answerphone), email: humanresources@southkent.ac.uk or visit www.southkent.ac.uk

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all employees to share this commitment. Applications are welcome from suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.



SWIMMING INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED

Swimtime are a national company that teach swimming lessons in 300 pools across the country
WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR ASA OR STA LEVEL 2 SWIMMING INSTRUCTORS IN THANET FOR THE FOLLOWING LESSONS:
Mother & Babies/Toddler
Swimming lessons for Children
Swimming lessons for Adults
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CALL NOW FOR FULL DETAILS
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Lantra 12 A/B and 12 D Operatives
wanted. £10-£12p/h Around Kent area.

General Industrial Temps required,
need to be flexible, various shifts and locations, £5.73-£7.00 p/h.

Roll On/Off, PCV and Dray Drivers
required for various temporary assignments in Kent. Digi card and previous experience preferred but not essential, up to £9.50 p/h.

For information on these and other vacancies please call on **01622 664999**

BETHANY LODGE

Eastbridge Road, Dymchurch

requires a:

REGISTERED NURSE

for 3 nights per week to join our team in a stimulating and rewarding environment caring for adults with a physical disability.

For more information and application forms please telephone: **01303 872289**

All applicants will be required to complete a Criminal Records Bureau check.

VACANCY – CAR TECHNICIAN

Eclipse Engineering, a division of Eclipse Recovery Services; require a qualified Vehicle Technician to work in our busy workshops alongside our existing team.

The successful candidate should possess multi-franchise car/light van experience and will be required to demonstrate their ability to carry out servicing and repairs to a high standard.

This is a permanent position with remuneration dependant upon experience. Candidates must be over 21 and have a full clean driving licence.

Apply in writing to:

H R Director
Eclipse Recovery Services Ltd
The Warren, Ratling Road
Aylesham, Canterbury
Kent CT3 3BD



Accounts Clerk

The AA Clifton Ltd group of companies are a small group of family businesses operating at a quick pace. The role is for someone who is honest, responsible, hardworking, but above all flexible.

This would be a part-time role to complete the business accounts and general administration of the companies.

The role would fall under the responsibility and supervision of the office manager, in the various secretarial and office functions.

Other related duties may be assigned at the discretion of the office manager.

For more information, please email: alan@aaclifton.ltd.uk or write to:

Alan Clifton-Holt
AA Clifton Ltd,
Haguelands Farm
Burmarsh, Romney Marsh
Kent TN29 0JR



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
- It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
- All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
- All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
- Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
- Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
- Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
- A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the advertiser for that advertising.
- No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
- Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vesious action via the advertiser.
- Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
- A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
- Seasonal contracts. Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
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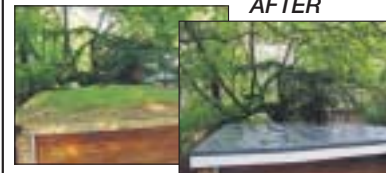
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Pictures ADY KERRY



WINNER: Wayne Parnell (right) celebrates with Rob Key during the Spitfires' Twenty20 Cup quarter-final win

Parnell aims to repay Kent with Twenty20 glory

CRICKET

WAYNE Parnell hopes to repay the faith Kent have shown in him by guiding the Spitfires to their second Twenty20 Cup triumph later this month.

The 20-year-old South African all-rounder has been cleared to play for the Spitfires at Twenty20 finals day on August 15, after successful discussions with Cricket South Africa led by Kent director of cricket Graham Ford.

Parnell, who took two wickets in the 56-run quarter-final victory against Durham Dynamos last Monday, will return to South Africa after Kent's Championship game against Derbyshire, which ended on Monday.

The impressive left-arm fast bowler, who is in his second stint at Canterbury this summer, is excited by the chance to feature at the Edgbaston Twenty20 finals day and is determined to help the Spitfires lift the trophy for a second time.

He said: "The fact Kent have asked me back again is really promising, we've built up a good relationship and I hope I can repay them by doing well for them again at finals day."

"I'm really happy and I'm pretty chuffed about the fact I will be playing at finals day."

"I have done pretty well since I have been at Kent in two different stints now and I am hoping to continue with that."

"Hopefully I can finish the day off and my time at Kent off with a trophy."

After a stunning performance with the ball on Monday last week in front of the biggest crowd at Canterbury's St Lawrence Ground since 1993, Parnell is eagerly anticipating another chance to impress in front of packed stands at Edgbaston.

He said: "The boys have told me it's the most amazing day so I am looking forward to it very much."

Ferley back in action after knee surgery

AFTER two months out with a torn muscle on his right knee, bowler Rob Ferley made a return to action last week.

The left-arm spinner, 27, has had a stop start beginning to his second spell at the club after injury limited his pre-season preparations.

Ferley then suffered a small tear on his knee which required surgery.

The injury took longer to heal than expected and he made a return a second XI game last week.

The spinner, who re-signed for Kent from Nottinghamshire in the winter, played in the second team's draw with Gloucestershire at Cheltenham and is expected to step up his workload against Somerset at Beckenham this week.

Pictures ADY KERRY



DEMAND: More Kent Spitfire fans may get chance to see their team in Twenty20 finals day action

Spitfires in bid for extra finals tickets

AFTER a surge in sales, Kent are hopeful of receiving more tickets for Twenty20 Cup finals day at Edgbaston later this month.

The Spitfires have been handed just 1,400 for the showpiece event in Birmingham on August 15, although the county are hopeful they may be able to get some more if they sell their allocation.

Club chairman George Kennedy said: "I'm very disappointed about the number of tickets we have got but I know a lot of people have been buying them in advance."

"I am certainly hopeful that we will get some more that have come back from other counties."

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COMING HOME: Paul Farbrace (left) will take over from Graham Ford next season but will call upon the former director of cricket, who will still work with the club on a consultancy basis



Pictures ADY KERRY

Kent return too good to turn down, says Farbrace

CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

FORMER Kent wicketkeeper Paul Farbrace turned down an extension to his contract as Sri Lanka's assistant coach to return to the county.

The 42-year-old replaces director of cricket Graham Ford, who has chosen not to return to Kent when his contract expires at the end of the season.

Farbrace, who takes over as head coach at Canterbury officially next season but will be with the squad from September 1, told this newspaper that a chance to be a first-team coach was too good an opportunity to turn down.

"They tried to make an attractive offer to keep me in Sri Lanka but for me the opportunity to be a first-team coach was too much, together with the lure of what Kent has to offer and to work with coaches at the club that I have previously," he said.

"It may look strange that I have come out of international cricket to go into county cricket, but it was all about making the right decision to help my career."

Although Ford departs at the end of the season to take over as head coach of South African state side Nashua Dolphins, Kent are optimistic the 48-year-old will still be available during the county season on a consultancy basis.

Having worked under Ford as director of Kent's Academy for two summers, Farbrace is eager to call on the experienced South African as and when he can.

"Graham Ford is a good man and I am glad that he is going to continue working with us," he said. "When I needed to make a decision about going to Sri Lanka he really helped and has been like a mentor to me. A big plus about this job is I will get to tap into his experience."

Farbrace, who was approached to take over at St Lawrence while he was in England with the Sri Lanka team during the ICC World Twenty20 in June, will join up with the squad next month.

He said: "It will be an opportunity to meet the players, take a look at the club's Academy youngsters and second-team players and decide if the squad needs strengthening for next summer."

The club are known to have put 28-day approaches in to speak to Leicestershire all-rounder Jim Allenby, Warwickshire bowler Nagaash Tahir and Worcestershire seamer Chris Whelan. The new head coach will have an input as to who will be arriving and departing after the summer.

He said: "I have been talking with Simon Willis and Graham Ford about players and have done for the past couple of weeks, and we have also talked about certain members of the playing staff."

"I will be involved with both of them seeing where we are at, who we need to bring in and if there are any other areas in the club that need strengthening."

The new coaching structure at the club will see coach Simon Willis take up a new role as cricket operations and talent development manager, which means he will manage the county's second XI and help nurture more young players into the first-team.

Rodmersham's hopes of promotion dashed

Pictures: (GCR) KUPCO



TOP SCORER: Rodmersham's Dave Cogger scored a half-century but it wasn't enough against Addington Village

CRICKET

BY GLENN PEARSON

RODMERSHAM'S faint hopes of promotion from Division Four were finally put to bed at the weekend as they were beaten by league leaders Addington Village.

Bottles Lane was one of the only grounds to escape the rain on Saturday, although Rodmersham would have wished the heavens had opened after scoring a meagre 189 for 9 in their innings.

Opener Dave Cogger top scored with 54 and while several of the top order got starts, none of them went on to record a good enough score to set a winnable total.

Skipper Darren Nokes picked up two early wickets, but Addington proved too strong and cantered to victory by seven wickets.

Elsewhere, in the Premier Division, Gore Court's overseas batsman Daniel Forster hit

an impressive 114 in his side's total of 214 for 6. Phil Edwards then claimed two quick wickets to have Bickley Park in trouble at 67 for 3 before rain came, leaving the game incomplete.

In Division Three, Minster moved to within four points of leaders Upchurch after picking up more batting bonus points in their game with OD CUACO.

The islanders scored 225 and had their opponents on the ropes at 102 for 7 with South African Nathan Nichol returning figures of 6 for 40 before the rain came.

Upchurch were bowled out for just 170 by third-placed High Halstow and then had their opponents floundering at 50 for 4 when they were too denied by the elements.

Bapchild dropped off the pace in the race for promotion as Betteshanger Colliery Welfare recorded a winning draw against the Swale side.

Betteshanger scored 237 for 8 and looked odds on for the win but Bapchild held firm and denied them a win having scored 168 for 9 with skipper Ben Fulton unbeaten on 77.

Macknade's game with Blackheath 3rd XI was abandoned due to rain.

Kent League Division Four

Rodmersham v
Addington Village

SCOREBOARD

Rodmersham

	Runs
Dave Cogger ct Sopp b Buet	54
Robert Horne ct Jeffery b Walton	16
Daniel Pumfrett b Walton	0
Sandeep Rodrigo lbw b Walton	21
Lee Jackson b Bruton	15
Darren Nokes b Bruton	11
Nazoomi Azhar lbw b Buet	11
Matthew Jewiss c & b Brown	18
Mark Jewiss b Brown	5
Josh Hopson not out	6
Karl Reeves not out	11

Extras (14b 2lb 3w 2nb) 21
Total (9 wickets, 50 overs) 189

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Adam Crowley	7	2	34	0
Dan Walton	10	0	50	3
Neil Scott	7	1	17	0
Mat Bruton	8	2	12	2
Ben Buet	7	0	31	2
Duncan Brown	7	2	25	2
Graeme Stubbs	4	2	4	0

Addington Village

	Runs
Mark Rimmer ct Horne b Nokes	21
Ben Buet ct Hopson b Nokes	11
Will Jeffery ct Horne b Rodrigo	0
Mat Bruton not out	55
Duncan Brown not out	90
Neil Scott did not bat	
James Tooze did not bat	
Adam Crowley did not bat	
Dan Walton did not bat	
Jack Sopp did not bat	
Graeme Stubbs did not bat	

Extras (1b 5lb 4w 5nb) 15
Total (3 wickets, 32 overs) 192

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Sandeep Rodrigo	8	1	44	1
Darren Nokes	13	2	66	2
Nazoomi Azhar	5	0	29	0
Matthew Jewiss	5	0	39	0
Mark Jewiss	1	0	8	0

FOOTBALL



Pictures: (GCR) KUPCO

EAGER: Boss Justin Luchford awaits the new season

Luchford can't wait for the new season to begin

AFTER a pre-season fixture list that included seven games, Faversham Town's new squad can finally look forward to some competitive football.

The summer has seen Paul Hyde, Buster Smisen and Dale Skelton arrive from Hythe Town, Rob French from Ebbsfleet United, Dan Larkin from Chatham and Jimmy Corbett from Folkestone Invicta all arrive at Salters Lane and boss Justin Luchford hoping to make another signing before the start of the season. Town are understandably going to be the team to beat.

They start their campaign off this weekend with an away trip to Beckenham Town and Luchford believes it is one of the toughest places to start a new season.

"You do not get much harder than Beckenham away," he said. "I'm sure they will be looking to put one over us so if we come away with a point out of Saturday I would be very happy. We then have two home games which we would be looking to take maximum points from and that would give us some momentum."

Luchford concedes his side can't wait for the season to start, but is yet to decide who will be in his XI come 3pm on Saturday.

"I think we are near enough there," he said. "I am trying to make a signing in the next couple of days so that may affect things but I have the majority of the side in my mind."

"There are one or two places I haven't quite made my mind up about, so I am going to see Beckenham in a friendly this week to see how they set up. Everyone is up for the start of the season and a bit bored of pre-season now. We can't wait to get going as the next game we play will have three points available."

Town will be without Dave Botterill who is likely to be out for an extended period with a back problem, while Buster Smisen is on holiday and won't return until August 21.

Shakey preparing for Nurburgring challenge

Pictures: STERILGARDIA DUCATI



CHALLENGE: Shane Byrne has five weeks to prepare for his first-ever race around Germany's famous Nurburgring

SUPERBIKES

WITH the World Superbike season entering a five-week break, Shane Byrne is already preparing for the challenge of facing the notorious Nurburgring next month.

The summer has seen a turn in the Sheppey rider's fortunes after a number of strong results saw him surge into the top ten of the riders' standings. The 33-year-old continued his run of form with two top-ten finishes last time out at the Brno circuit in the Czech Republic.

The fourth and eighth-place finishes moved Byrne up to eighth in the championship.

However, with a new circuit to learn in the shape of the historic German track in the next round, Byrne will be use his time off to pre-

pare himself for his Nurburgring bow.

He said: "I'm really looking forward to the break. It gives me plenty of time to train and prepare myself for the Nurburgring, which is going to be interesting."

"I've never even seen the place and it's not on the SBK 09 computer game either, so that's going to be an interesting one."

"When you sit down and think about it there are literally four rounds left and that's it, the season is over. I can't believe how quick it's gone."

"We've got Germany, then Imola, which we had a pretty good test at, so that should be okay. We finish with one of my favourites, Portimao in Portugal, which should be good - I can't wait for that one."

Byrne is back in World Superbike action for round 11 of the championship on September 6.

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Mark Stimson talks about the Gills' first game of the season

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